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黒の魔王 XI

赤

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**FREEDOM
NOVEL**

Kuro no Maou

Volume 11 - Rank 1 Adventurer

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Chapter 164 – The Melancholy of Sariel

The flag of the cross which symbolised the White God fluttered on the Daedalus royal castle and showed who ruled this land.

And right now, the fact that the authority of the precious ruler Gaevinal had completely disappeared,

“You may leave now.”

Was proven by the young white girl sitting on the throne.

“Yes, then excuse me, Your Excellency Sariel.”

Sitting on the throne that had been painted white as per the style of the Syncrea Republic, the supreme commander of the Crusaders, 7th Apostle Sariel sent off the sister who had finished her duties.

Beside her was an empty envelop which had the seal of the holy cross insignia.

“This really was surprising. To think that the [White Hero], 2nd Apostle Abel, would be coming here.”

The contents of the envelope were in the hands of Sariel’s aide and vice commander, Archbishop Liuchrome.

The two had read the letter sent by the Pope and, though their faces didn’t show it, they were extremely surprised by the matter written in the letter.

“Do you have any idea why Lord Abel would be coming here?”(sariel)

In the letter it was basically written that they needed to receive Abel cleverly since his visit is supposed to be a secret.

Sariel asked so to her aide thinking that maybe he, who was much more intelligent than herself, might have realized the reason behind this sudden yet secret visit from the contents of the letter.

“No, I do not know anything. Whatever it is, the reason must be something very appropriate considering that Lord Abel would leave Elysion. It’s definitely not simply a whim.”(liu)

Unlike someone, his voice seemed to contain a tinge of sarcasm.

Although sporadic resistances were occurring all over Daedalus in opposition to their occupation, the Crusaders had already reached to all corners of the territory and overall the situation was favourable to them.

In terms of conquering, there were no problems. If it was something else, then that would be the disappearance of the 11th Apostle Misa.

In any case, she should be currently on the Magic battleship Gargantia while listening to the complaints of 12th Apostle Mariabelle and watched over by 3rd Apostle Mikael's saint-like smile.

By the way, 3rd Apostle Mikael had also almost stranded away somewhere but luckily she was found wandering around in Daedalus and they were able to avoid creating an uproar.

But even considering such situations regarding Daedalus, just as Liuchrome said, neither of them were a problem big enough to make the 2nd Apostle Lord Abel take action himself.

"I see, that's true."

Sariel also agreed.

Except during battles, she was completely on the top position as a decoration in terms of politics etc but since she did hear the minimal amount of info, she could also agree with Liuchrome's words.

"Since the details have been hidden, we should not make any useless inquiries either."

"Yes, something done by His Holiness the Pope and Lord Abel is the same as the will of God. We should simply prepare for his visit as stated in the letter."

Understood. Like an experienced butler, Liuchrome accepted Sariel's words.

In the letter, Lord Abel's visit was to be treated as a complete secret so it was instructed that only Sariel and Liuchrome should be privy to this matter.

Abel's outward stance is that he is simply an envoy sent by the Pope to examine the situation in Pandora, of course, the fact that he was an Apostle was not declared.

His objective was to investigate to report back to the Pope and so the Crusaders were 'asked' to tell him whatever info he may require.

"Archbishop Liuchrome, would you be kind enough to leave for some time?"(sariel)

To Sariel's sudden request, without crumbling his calm face, Liuchrome answered in the very next second.

"Then, I shall take my leave now. I'll ask the guards to take a rest a bit earlier as well."

Without even asking for the reason, he simply acknowledged Sariel's demand to 'clear out the people'.

Even if it was a mysterious order, he had no right to stop an Apostle from doing something. A mere 'human' could only abide by her orders without retorting or suspecting her.

"Thank you, we'll continue in the afternoon as usual."

After respectfully bowing once, Liuchrome left the throne room.

For the next one hour, no one would enter the throne room nor would anyone suspect what was happening inside it. The room was treated as a perfectly sealed room.

Alone, in the throne room, Sariel softly muttered.

"You can come out now."

But that voice which should have been received by empty air certainly reached someone.

"Well, sorry about that, looks like I made you worry."

In the throne room where no one else should have been, a single girl appeared from behind a thick pillar.

Blonde twintails, a thin shirt and miniskirt, and a simple leather breastplate and boots as equipment showed that she was not a civilian.

If one were to describe it in few words, she looked like a newbie adventurer.

There was no atmosphere around her that an experienced adventurer who had

crossed countless battles to the death would have. She really looked like an innocent girl but her identity was,

“Welcome to the Pandora Continent, 8th Apostle Ai.”(sariel)

Sariel welcomed her, without showing any sort of surprise against the fact that the apostle that roamed around the world freely had appeared here.

“You’re cute as usual Sariel-senpai! But if you’re going to so ‘welcome’ then do so with a smile!!”

Sariel’s face twitched slightly on Ai’s words

She wasn’t angry, she was trying to smile actually.

“Sorry, Sariel-senpai is fine as she is.”

Seeing Sariel’s moving efforts that bore no fruit, Ai seemed to be reflecting on her words.

“So, what business do you have?”(sariel)

Sariel who returned to her expressionless face, without even trying to try and chat with her junior who she met in a long time, directly cut to the chase and asked her that.

“I thought Misa would have already told you that I was here on Pandora so—-”

That was a fact.

After Misa returned back to the Royal Castle with an unpleasant face, obviously she had told everything, where she had gone, what she did, *etc.*

And obviously, the fact that she had met the 8th Apostle Ai also came.

“—I thought I should come and greet you properly at least.”

“I see.”(sariel)

Just for that reason, she had infiltrated all the way to the innermost room of the royal castle that was protected and guarded by soldiers all the time.

If a human had done so, it would have been a shocking news but if the people of republic were told that ‘an Apostle did it’, everyone would find it easy to understand.

Especially since it was Ai, who was specialised in hiding herself, that did this, Sariel found it even easier to accept. Since she is here right now, it was already a true fact after all.

“Ah, but I also have a request, will you hear it?” (Ai)

Ai clapped her hands in front of her chest and gave a wink looked just like a daughter trying to beg her father for something.

“What is it?”

Sariel who wasn't really affected by that gesture asked very curtly.

“Hurry up and build the Daedalus branch of the Adventurer guild!” (Ai)

Even Sariel who didn't really excel at thinking could figure out what was the reason behind that request.

Ai had been acting as an adventurer who existed all over the Republic, no, the whole Arc continent.

And this place was also not exception either. She had come to know, while hiding in Virginia, that a large network of adventurers also existed on the Pandora continent as well.

Naturally, an adventurer guild also existed in the capital city Daedalus as well but it was not working anymore obviously because of the occupation done by the Crusaders.

The Guild that Demons used and the guild that the humans of the Republic used, though both had the same names, they were completely different organisations.

In Daedalus, that had already become the territory of the Republic, a Guild with the rules of the Republic will be created.

At least for Ai to work as an adventurer here, she'll need the republic's adventurer guild to start operating here.

“I understand.”

And, Sariel accepted Ai's demand instantly.

“Yay! I love you Sariel-senpai!!”

Ai ran towards her with arms wide open and Sariel had to resign herself to receiving her as well.

“The start of.....the adventurer guild will.....be needed soon....after all.”(sariel)

As Ai continued rubbing her cheek with Sariel’s, Sariel continued her explanation praiseworthily.

The occupation known as an Adventurer didn’t limit to just going into dungeons and looking for treasure.

In this world filled with monsters, they were also an important existence to protect the people at every place.

Of course, dealing with monsters is the job of the army but they alone can’t deal with it perfectly.

From the point of view of the regular civilians, adventurers are closer to them and protect them by clearing out the monsters near their homes.

And that’s not all. Gathering herbs, personal escorting, delivering items, etc are also jobs that they take which are dangerous to normal people.

And furthermore, the adventurers also supply items to adventurer guild, merchant guild and even directly to workshops and blacksmiths as well.

And since they are an existence which is indispensable for the civilians, adventurers existed both on the Arc continent as well as Pandora continent and was one of the most common occupation taken by people.

Then naturally, even without the explanation of Sariel, it was obvious that they needed to start adventurer operations in Daedalus quickly.

However, Ai was currently busy enjoying Sariel’s soft white squishy cheeks and didn’t listen to the explanation at all.

“Will you be staying in Daedalus for a while?”(Sariel)

Sariel asked so to Ai without showing any sort of reluctance towards her excessive skinship.

“un, I’ll stay as an adventurer here till everything calms down here. Actually I wanted to become a Pandora Adventurer but then I’ll be unable to do my only

job of 'world reformation'."

Ai, the 8th Apostles, actions were famous and supported by the civilians of Republic as a 'good deed'.

Defeating monsters that were causing trouble to even armies, judging corrupt officials and merchants; there was no way her actions would be criticised.

But, she could only take actions like that inside the territory of the Cross, *i.e.* inside the Republic.

Basically, she couldn't 'save' a person who was not a believer of the Cross.

Ai moved almost completely independent of the influence of the church but her actions of saving the believers of the Cross in itself was an act which could be said to be correct as an Apostle.

"If you're going to be here, then Daedalus will be safe as well."(sariel)

"nfufu thanks!!"(ai)

Hearing such pleasant thing from Sariel, Ai tried to kiss her mouth-to-mouth but as expected that was probably no good for a believer of the Cross and Sariel blocked her gently with her palm.

"There's one thing I want to ask."(sariel)

"Wha~t is it?"

Maybe she was still attracted to Sariel's lips, Ai was pouting like an octopus.

"Did the 'devil' who brought out huge damages to my Crusaders in Alsace really call himself Kurono?"(sariel)

Due to the case with Misa's independent actions, Sariel was also aware of the battle at Alsace.

Inside the favourable territory of Daedalus, to have lost more than a thousand men, it was a hard battle that was now well known not to just Sariel but to the whole of the Crusaders.

This battle alone was not called as 'resistance by demons' but was a clear cut 'war'.

And since Ai had appeared in that battle, it was normal for the supreme

commander Sariel to ask her about it.

But to ask just about a single man named [Kuroono] was truly incomprehensible.

“Huh, could it be that senpai is acquainted with Kuroono-kun?” (Ai)

Ai asked Sariel with a grinning face.

It looked like a girl bullying another while asking the name of the man she liked but the contents were serious enough that it might turn into an interrogation.

“.....”

Sariel answered with silence. She was unable to lie after all.

Ai, who took that as a ‘yes’ to her question answered the original question with a satisfied face.

“We did name each other after all. It’s not some rumour or misunderstanding. He had a rare combination of having black hair and black eyes and he was wearing full black clothes as well so he stood out. aa, also a super cute fairy and a pretty witch were also with him.” (Ai)

Do you know something about it? On Ai’s such words, Sariel could only answer back with silence but,

(“No doubt. That was truly Kuroono Mao.”)

Sariel confirmed inside her mind.

The black magician that killed countless Crusaders and was called a ‘devil’ was without a doubt the same man that she had let go off twice.

“It’s rare for Sariel-senpai to show interest towards an individual person, or rather, isn’t this the first time?” (Ai)

That truly was correct.

The girl called the 7th Apostle Sariel was indifferent to her surroundings, anyone who had been concerned with her even a little was well aware of that fact.

She would simply defeat her enemies and complete the mission given to her by the church. In a way, she was truly an ideal Apostle but that made it difficult to

judge her humanity.

Such a girl tried to confirm whether the name of the man she knew referred to the same man that faced the Crusaders.

Such a simple thing was a proof that the existence called [Kurono] was a special existence towards her.

“nee nee, could it be that you’re worried for Kurono-kun? Or could it be that was your ex?”(ai)

~kyaa with a sound like that, Ai seemed to be getting excited by herself but,

“There’s nothing like that.”(sariel)

The girl was a doll. Let alone human emotions, she did not even have the survival instincts of a living being in her.

She was completely unrelated to the womanly emotion of falling for a man, she simply could not understand that emotion.

“fuun, is that so?”(ai)

Ai, maybe she sensed the atmosphere, decided not to pursue it any further.

“Well whatever, ah, this is my new guild card so if ‘something’ happens request me through the Guild.”(Ai)

Saying that, she handed over a card to Sariel.

On it was the very common name Ai along with her class and other such personal data along with her adventurer rank.

On the Pandora continent, metal plates were used but on Arc, such cards, that too the type that were printed in huge number so that one could give them to people like a business card, were used.

“About Kurono-kun, if I get to know something, I’ll tell you. After all I do owe a favour to Sariel-senpai. I’ll use this chance to return it back.”

“No, I am——”

“So see ya! Work hard Sariel-senpai!!”

And after throwing words of farewell one-sidedly, she grandly left through the

door and Sariel could only silently see her off.

“.....Kurono Mao.”

Sariel’s muttering, this time finally didn’t reach anyone’s ears.

(“I should not have let him run away.”)

The feeling she felt in her heart was without a doubt, regret.

Sariel was the supreme commander of the Crusaders. Her job was to kill the enemies, not to have pity on them.

As the leader of an army, she had a duty to limit the losses of her army to a minimum.

And, Sariel whose *raison d’être* was her work as an Apostle, to have caused damages to her army due to her ‘personal actions’ was not something forgivable.

Thus she regretted, she should not have done that at that time. Everyone has such a regret and Sariel also suffered from it.

(“Unneeded casualties were created because of me.”)

For Sariel, what was important wasn’t who died, but the fact that ‘someone died’ in itself.

She was not sad for the death of people, she could simply not forgive that she had made useless losses to the army.

Conversely speaking, it was nothing more than that.

For Sariel, a person’s life and death wasn’t important. What’s more important was the success or failure of a job.

(“Then, it would be ideal for me to deal it with it.”)

And thus, Sariel resolved her heart towards the man called Kurono Mao that was hated by her Crusaders.

(“If I meet him again in the ‘next battle’ ——“)

No, there was no ‘if’ in that. That man would definitely appear on the battlefield, she was sure of that.

Thinking about that time that will appear in the near future,

“—I will kill him with my very hands.”

As if telling herself, Sarii spoke those determined words.

But what ruled her heart was not anger towards Kurono that was the reason behind her ‘mistake’.

She simply felt anguished to the fact that she would have to kill the man that she had hoped would be salvation, hope for the experimental humans.

Yes, after becoming the 7th Apostle, Sarii felt ‘melancholy’ for the first time.

Chapter 165 – Zero Chronicle

The 14th of Hatsuhi, the blue sky was bright, befitting of a summer day and occasionally, a cool refreshing wind would blow.

This city called Spada, as I looked at the streets and buildings again, I realized that it was really a magnificent city.

Buildings tall enough to match with modern buildings were lined up, the roads were made beautifully from tiles and even street lights that worked with magical energy were installed.

I had thought of this world as having culture at the same level as Medieval Era but streets like this have the same beauty as modern European cities, it's really amazing.

Probably with the boon of magic, they must have developed different techniques and methods of construction and other systems that don't exist on Earth which only has science.

Spada was such a city filled with dreams and romance but right now our objective is to get some quests from the guild and also procure equipments and items.

The Guild and the item shop was located at the plaza around 10mins away from our inn.

An ancient relic Obelisk was also set in the plaza and was very useful as a meeting place or a landmark.

We three members of [Element Master] weren't really meeting up here but anyway, we came here to use it as our starting point.

Compared to the plaza of Irz village, the number of people is overwhelming here.

I wonder how many people would be there at the central plaza of the whole city.

After coming to this world, I am seeing a place filled with so many people for

the first time.

Well, it's still better compared to the crowd of Tokyo but still I ended up feeling a bit overwhelmed when surrounded by such tall buildings and so many people.

"This might be late but Spada really is a big city!" (kuroono)

"I know right?" (Lily)

While saying something totally what a country bumpkin would say along with Lily, I gave a sigh of admiration while looking at the 10m high obelisk.

On the monument-like obelisk, something was written with letters different from the ones used currently in this world. The letters were giving off a faint white light as well.

Considering that the Obelisk was a thing of the Ancient times, this completely different letters must be what was used during those times.

"Lily, can you read what's written there?" (kuroono)

"nn~"

Focusing with her eyes, Lily gazed at the words that were shining with a white light.

Her gaze seemed to possess an intellectual light as if her adult consciousness had returned for some time.

"I don't know!" (Lily)

"I see~ So even you don't know~" (kuroono)

It seems I was mistaken about the intellectual light I felt in her eyes but as a reward for working hard I patted Lily, fuhaha, this damn cute fellow!

"Kuroono-san, something about Mia Elrod is written on the obelisk it seems."

While I was admiring Lily like a pet cat, Fiona gave a serious answer.

And somehow, she is also stuffing her cheeks with a litchi like fruit that she had bought from a cart but I couldn't retort to that.

"Is that so? Fiona, you can read this?" (kuroono)

"Yes, of course I can read this." (Fiona)

I am really surprised! To think that Fiona could read Ancient letters! I guess an actual witch is in a different league from the everyday magician——

“After all, the translation is also written there.”(Fiona)

Return my feelings of surprise back to me!

To the place where Fiona was pointing, the translation of what was written on the Obelisk was written with full explanations, clearly to help tourists.

Of course, it was in letters even I could read.

“Let’s see, about Mia—ah, it really is written here.”

As I looked at the explanations written there, apparently on this obelisk praises about the Emperor Mia Elrod of the great Elrod empire or something like that was written.

By the way, here rather than ‘Demon King’, the title used was ‘Emperor’ for Mia.

Well that’s normal. Mia was titled as a Demon King afterwards, Mia herself/himself used Emperor when he/she was active.

“It seems, a bigger one is located at the Central Plaza as well.”(Fiona)

“Reading that, we might be able to know about some specific episode.”(kuroono)

On this 10x3m black rectangle, only praises towards Mia have been written and nothing describing what Mia actually did is written.

“But still, [The beginning of History – Zero Chronicle] is a pretty grandiose name that they have used.”

[The beginning of History – Zero Chronicle] is the word referred to the various Obelisks that talked about Mia located not just in Spada but all over Pandora.

But, to say that the history of people began only when Emperor Mia Elrod unified Pandora is pretty arrogant in my opinion.

It’s basically saying that everything that happened before that is not ‘acknowledged’ by them.

To think like that, isn’t that too narrow minded of them?

“It’s really mysterious, on the Arc continent ‘Zero Chronicle’ holds the exact opposite meaning of the ‘End of History’.”(Fiona)

“Is that so—-“

As I wondered about it, a question arose in mind.

“Now that I think about it, both Pandora and Arc use the same system of Model magic, don’t they?”

Not just that, they both speak in the same language as if it was something obvious and even use the same letters and alphabets.

When you think about it, isn’t that really weird?

After all, the people of Arc hadn’t arrived at Pandora just now, they had no chance of ‘cultural exchange’ with them.

It couldn’t be that it’s a coincidence that they ended up developing the same kind of culture right?

“Well that’s normal. After all, the current culture has been derived from the Ancient culture. In Ancient times, both Arc and Pandora were under the same sphere of cultural influence. The proof is the fact that our language is the same, though there are a few differences.”(Fiona)

Furthermore, if one was to compare the Ancient Dungeons of both Arc and Pandora, the similarities are even more apparent, or so Fiona explains.

“I have only entered Medea(T/N: prev used media) Ruins but I believe that other ruins also belong to the Ancient civilisation.”(Fiona)

“I see.....”

I agreed but at the same time several more questions also rose up.

In the first place, what the hell was the Ancient Civilisation? They existed thousands of years ago but they still had influence over the current culture?

But, for the time being I set aside my curiosity.

“Unfortunately, we don’t have the time to be leisurely sightseeing.”(kurono)

That’s right, we need to quickly to restore our adventurer lifestyle and start working.

“That’s true.”(Fiona)

“Oo!”(lily)

Or so those two gave an energetic response but before I realized, even Lily was now enjoying those litchi-like small fruits which chipped away the persuasive power in their replies.

“You guys are really unfair.....I’ll go buy some too.”

I, who yielded to the sweet fruity aroma of the fruits, resolved deeply in my heart to get serious after we’re done eating this.

But, for me who usually abandons his own resolve in few steps, is there even any meaning behind resolving my heart? Such question rose inside me.....

Chapter 166 – The Man with 40 Points

There are two Adventurer Guilds present in Spada.

One of them is present, after crossing the second protective wall, in the upper class area, on the outskirts of city's central plaza, the Spada Adventurer Guild Headquarters.

Only High-ranked adventurer like Rank 4 and above, are allowed to use the headquarters, normal adventurers have to use the other one.

That is, Spada Adventurer Guild, School District Branch.

The School district is just like it's names, an area with science, it has the Royal Spada Academy and various other educational institutions, like magic research laboratories, Weapon Workshops, and Temples.

Due to the location, this branch of guild is filled with young people wearing uniform like clothes.

Of course, there are also people wearing helmet and armor and robes, the adventurers.

Presently, the ratio of Students to Adventurers is 3:7, but still the students wearing same uniform is more conspicuous.

To other adventurer who have never seen this would get surprised but to the girl Elf, Erina, sitting on the reception window, this scene is normal.

She is, today as well, dealing with adventurers with a smile.

「Erina-san, if this quest is successful, will you go on a date with me!」

「I'm right now working, please refrain from any private talks」

The beautiful elf, Erina, while sweetly smiling cuts off the invitation by the young male student.

To Erina, with light chestnut-colored hair folded into a chignon, sky-blue eyes, and with onee-san type looks, this sort of invitation was a normal scene.

「But, if you become able to take quest from the headquarters, then I might

think about it」

「Really! In that case, I'm gonna give it my all!」

Becoming a rank 4 adventurer to take quests from headquarters is a very severe task, but if said with a seductive wink, there is no man who would not be cheered up.

While seeing the figure of students groups heading towards the quests full with spirit,

「Hm~, 45 points」

She speaks those words along with a sigh.

(With his appearance, grades, and parentage he could've gotten 50 points, but too bad his personality is of an idiot)

Marking any man is like a normal habit for her, after all she didn't have any lack of men trying to woo her since childhood.

(The branch is not good, Argh, I need to get employed at headquarters soon and meet a good man)

But right now is the time of waiting, it's the time of lower social strata, saying that she persuaded herself and without making any unpleasant expression, she has tried to keep working in her job.

After graduating from Royal Spada Academy's civil official course with great scores, she easily got accepted in the Spada Adventurer Guild.

Her academic background, along with having her parent's home in the upper class area, she is in other words an Elite.

And, if she continued her duties seriously without any big mistakes, she would be steadily promoted and in three years promoted to the headquarters.

Smoothly sailing on the path of elite course Erina, wanted to have the man who would be her partner with a suitable status and abilities.

At the very least, there is no possibility of a man who would attract her in this branch section of guild with rank 3 and below adventurers.

Of course, there would be some among students who have accomplished great

achievements, but there is no magic to distinguish them, though there was magic, it's not possible to know about future.

Hence, she is today in her 2nd Year of the job too, stably trying to be pleasant to everyone while being the receptionist.

Having the rapid coming of men with points less than 50 recently she has piled up lot of frustration, but due to her skill of feigning innocence, she only shows the smile which can fascinate anyone, but not her true black feelings.

「Next person, please」

The man after the common student adventurer, was a man with attracting eyes.

No doubt, the moment she finds out the person is man, her marking starts.

(Hm~, his face is really good)

Having a face that alone can give the man 90 points, Erina's tension was elevated.

She immediately distinctifies that man didn't had any particular physical trait, and his race was human.

His nose was tall and outline was quite sharp, various parts were splendidly arranged.

His long slitted eyes and their expression, might scare most people, but to Erina, who was searching for adventurer and knight men, it worked as a plus sign.

(Black hair with odd-eyes of black and red, rare combination)

His black hairs were so long that they covered both eyes, but it was not like hair was grown carelessly and is showing laziness and dirtiness. On the contrary, it matched the man's atmosphere.

More than anything, the strong life force inside the black eyes that seemed like dark abyss of hell, and red eyes that seemed like brightly blazing flames increased the charm of the man.

(His eyes don't seem to have 'something' in them. It's bit disappointing for

them to not be『Mystic Eyes』)

But wanting『Mystic Eyes』is quite severe, thinking that Erina then looks at the man's equipments.

(White shirt and worn-out leather pants, huh.....I can't tell if you're an adventurer if you don't have guild card, why is he wearing this even if it's a holiday for him. And there isn't even one knife on him, he is too much careless)

That kind of appearance, to an adventurer is equal to being nude, Erina starts her re-evaluation from the lower section.

His rank was 1, even the student from before had bronze plate of rank 2, in this case she can't expect great strength based on his appearance.

「Please show the Guild Card」

While having feeling of sadness, Erina speaks out the standard lines.

The adventurer guild is just like its name says, used by adventurers, and ignored by common people.

Hence, for getting the services of guild to use it, it's needed to show the proof of being an adventurer.

By the way, at the time of applying for quest by a common person, they are lead to another reception window.

「Here it is.」

To the man taking out the iron plated guild card hanging from his neck, marks are added.

The thing she piqued interest in was not the nice vocal sound the man had.

(He is quite polite contrary to his appearance)

The only one word「Here it is」is something that a knight with muscle brain, or an eccentric magician with brain of magic can never speak.

「Thank you very much」

Showing a smile that can be 100 points for a girl (Business use only), Erina takes the guild card, and starts reading the information written on it with her personal magic item.

In truth Guild card contains information more than what is written on it.

Like what quest in progress, or how many the person has passed or failed, these personal information like information is written in it using the magic techniques.

Of course the actions of adventurers are not being updated in real-time, but the staff member of guild updates it based on the achievement progress of quest.

In the first place, a rank 1 guild card doesn't has much strong protection, so even without this small crystal orb like reading magic item, with some knowledge in magic it can be easily read.

And, within less than 3 seconds the personal data of the man is displayed on the display screen of crystal orb.

「You are Kurono-sama, rank 1 adventurer, right?」

White facing Kurono, who was nodding, she gave sidelong glance on the information and read it in fast speed, Erina couldn't help but feel disappointment that the information was just as she expected.

(Uwa, He's from Daedalus.....where the hell is this Irz, he isn't even from the capital? He's quite a country bumpkin)

To Erina wanting a man with good family, a country bumpkin with no surname is of no use.

(Sigh, All the quests are easy ones, and what might this 'black magic' be)

Erina read the information of errand level quests like medicine plant gathering, but

(Hm, Emergency Quest: Protection of Evacuees.....is he perhaps)

Though Erina was still a rookie receptionist, but just by being a personnel of Guild, she has heard more information that normal people about the 'war' in Daedalus.

Including the fact about traces of massacre left on the road in the middle of Galahad Mountains.

(I see, so he's a survivor with good luck)

But Erina didn't even think, that he was the one who unfolded the fierce fighting and successfully escaped till Spada.

She was only thinking, she crossed Galahad Mountain Range luckily by not being discovered by anyone.

And like that, Erina pushed the stamp of 'Rookie Level' within her heart towards Kurono while looking at his adventurer experience.

「What work might you have today?」

While browsing through the errand level quests within her mind, Erina asked him with a smile, without showing any other expression.

「I want to know the information about monsters, if possible about their habitats」

Did he not know about the existence of Monster List in the Guild, while sighing in the heart towards the man's stupidity, Erina explained.

「Over there is a book with the records of monsters information, please look at that」

Erina while vowing in her heart to let him enter the Royal Spada Academy if he is illiterate says as such.

「No, I did read it, but it didn't have the information I need, is any more information not made public?」

On the answer going over her expectations, Erina starts thinking.

All the information for a rank 1 adventurer like, monster information, weak points, traits, attacking pattern, habitat, dealing method and much more is written in the monster list.

If he could read the characters and talk in polite way, then he can't have a bad mind which can interpret the meaning of sentences.

Despite that, the meaning that what he wanted was not written meant..... thinking that a hunch sprouted within Erina's heart.

「Kurono-sama, what sort of monster's information do you need?」

For checking her hunch she asks, while praying to the Black Gods that her hunch be wrong.

「I don't have a particular name, but, err, maybe high ranked monsters like Salamander——」

Having her hunch hit the mark, Erina wanted to praise herself for still keeping a smiling poker face.

Because she felt, that Kurono was a man with just good face, and unfortunately, truly unfortunately didn't know about his own capabilities.

Salamander is a famous monster of dragon species, based on whether it is killed or not adventurer can be separated in first-class or second-class. In other words, it is the gateway to success for adventurers.

Even with full power a rank 1 adventurer can never win against it, even if a party of 100 people of rank 1 adventurers is made, all and everyone one will have their everything including bones turned to ash with just one fire breath.

While bearing the scorn to someone idiot who is wanting something not in reach, Erina started explaining to Kurono politely.

「I'm sorry but this guild can't give the quests with high danger risks. For example, you cannot take the quest for subjugating a salamander if you're not an adventurer of rank 4 or above」

She implicitly declared, that this quest was completely unrelated to the current him,

「I do know that, that's why I thought of killing it as a freelancer, is it wrong?」

And abused him saying he couldn't be anymore idiot.

An idiot who didn't know the system of guild, it could be alright.

But, a person while knowing the system, having a plan of digging a hole, is more troublesome.

In other words, this idiot knows that he couldn't fight salamander normally, and has thought to kill it without a quest.

Killing monsters freely is legal and not considered as crime, but a person

without any knowledge of their own strength, jumping in the nest of dragon is nothing more than sacrificing their life.

Even this current idiot could become a great adventurer in future, if he does his quests normally, and so the guild doesn't want to let a young person lose his life.

That's why to not let a person go into rank 3 above monster's habitats, the information except the escaping from high ranked monsters is concealed in the monster list.

In other words, this rank 1 idiot man is not understanding even a fragment of that kind-hearted guild's parental affection.

[ET: HUUUH?]

「I'm sorry, but this guild refrains from adventurers fighting monsters above their capacities」

「I, see.....」

Kurono makes a completely depressed expression.

If he was a man with great future, she would speak some consoling words, but due to his foolishness Erina won't ever speak anything like that.

「If you want to subjugate high ranked monsters, then there is no other way than to increase your own rank」

While wanting him to live like a normal adventurer, Erina explains in a businesslike way.

「Understood, then can you tell me the quest required to rise to rank 2」

For the time being, while being relieved that Kurono has some wisdom, she gave to the depressed rank 1 adventurer a quest.

「Yes, Kurono-sama has already completed many Rank 1 quests, so——」

Even though, gathering medicinal plants, helping village vigilante troops, protecting villagers going to neighbouring village, are all 100% safe quests with nothing related to fighting against monsters.

Inside them, helping with maintenance of the fence around village and all, are

all quests one will never encounter monsters.

Of course, no one would fail in them, so Kurono's success rate was 100%, it isn't something one should be proud of.

Even so achievements are achievements, if he now completed some subjugation quests for rank 1 adventurers, he could easily be promoted.

Erina, quickly lists out the quests needed for rank promotion in less than a minute.

Kurono says the words of gratitude without forgetting, and taking the list in hands reads it.

Erina guessed he would choose the easiest one, with the subjugation of 5 goblins.

「Well then, I will take them all」

Stop fucking around here! She stops her intense urge to shout with her strong mental strength, a special feature of elves.

Calm down, don't get mad, elves are always cool, while persuading herself with those words, Erina politely dealt with him.

「It's possible to take all the quests at once, but I won't recommend it」

Why? To Kurono asking like an idiot, she replies in a businesslike way.

「There is a time limit, if not completed within it, a penalty fine would be needed and the fine for breaching the quest contract. It's better to do quests one by one without any risks」

It was a really polite and kind warning from Erina, but

「No, I will be fine」

He kicked it away.

「I see, then is it fine with all this quests?」

While cursing Kurono, who gave affirmation boldly, that he should fall in debt hell due to that fine, she completed the procedures of taking 5 quests.

「AH, Excuse me, I want to take them as a party」

Then say that first, you dimwit, while cursing within her heart, she replies while smiling.

「It will be fine, if you request after completing the quest, it will be regarded as the achievement of party. But, if you hadn't registered the party then do it now, later it would turn troublesome」

Then I will come tomorrow, while hearing shitty information, Erina completes the preparations for quest.

「——I will be praying for your success, work hard」

While giving the bundle of receipts, she said as such without any real meaning behind it.

「Thank you very much」

And then, Kurono left while showing a faint smile.

Looking at the figure of Kurono, with tall and slender body, cold facial expression, and smile like spring, Erina

「Sigh, so his looks were the only things good, really bad man, 40 points」

Leaked out those words of disappointment.

Chapter 167 – The Trial Is

After taking the quests from the beautiful and sociable elf receptionist I left the guild, and return to the plaza.

During the time I was taking the quests in Guild, Lily and Fiona were buying Potions and various sorts of items, in short, it was division of roles.

However though we had formed『Element Master』, but we haven't officially registered ourselves, so in the end all three of us have to go to guild.

So let's go tomorrow, while thinking I try to find the two but can't find them, seems like they are still shopping.

Even if it's potion, are female's shopping always this long? I sat on a bench in the plaza which has the obelisk of『Beginning of History (Zero Chronicle)』in the centre, and wait for the two.

「Trial, huh.....」

While muttering that, I touch the top of eyelid of my deep crimson left eye.

It was completely out of my expectations, that I would find the identity-like thing of trial.

In the first place, I opened the Monster list of Guild for fighting the rank 4 and above monsters for getting stronger.

As expected of Spada, a big-city, the information amount is heavens apart from what was present in Irz.

Well in the end, just like explanation of receptionist, rank 1 adventurer should refrain from fighting high ranked monsters even if it's their own free will, but like I care about.

But that's not the problem, but the fact that I found a clue to trials within the monster list.

Within the many monsters in the list, some particular monster names were releasing red light as if it was a sign.

At first I thought the list had some sort of magical trick, but the name of monsters in red light could only be seen by me.

It was proved when I asked the surrounding adventurers「This is shining with red light, right?」, the reply I got was cold stares saying pitiable guy.

For confirming I closed my left eye, the luminescence vanished, conversely the light could be seen when looked through right eye.

Without a doubt, this red light could only be seen through my 'left eye'.

Thinking back, Mia said something like this.

「In future, my eye will tell you the necessary things」

In other words, this eye literally is telling me.

Along with the affirmation, I recall the drastic move of gouging out the left eye and transplanting into me, I somewhat squander my eyes.

Even god would say, couldn't you have done it in a more divine and sacred way.

After all this time, that complaint arose in me.

「Hm, Geez, You're rude to say that, even though I healed it!」

「.....Ha?」

I shake my hand off the eye, there the person with the same face I was thinking just now is standing.

「Is it you, Mia?」

The appearance is somewhat different from that time, but still has the black short hair, deep crimson eyes and androgynous beautiful face, the so-called self-proclaimed God, ancient Demon Lord, Mia Elrod.

The left eye that was supposed to be transplanted into me, is naturally with her, and shining with constant red light.

The black robe and uniform like clothes are the same as the students from before in guild and people within the city, by the way it's a male blazer.

On top of that is Mia's hand is, the same small fruit with sourness and

sweetness and a not-yet-seen faint yellow milk like liquid inside a cup, it won't look anything other than a child buying and consuming food.

But, that completely food consuming middle schooler, boldly announced the name with the jet-black obelisk at the back.

「Indeed, We are the King of Elrod Empire, Mia Elrod! Just kidding」

The figure of him/her/it with the little tongue out had a lot of cute destructive power.

Even though, there is no trace of divinity anywhere to give presents and hail screaming「God!」, to me Mia's remains as the 'Mysterious Magician'.

「I have something to ask」

I ignore Mia's unexpected appearance and disappearance, and ask what I want to ask.

「What is it, I can answer everything until it touches the God's Rule」

While smiling, it sat on the bench I am sitting at, moreover really close that our shoulder come in contact.

「My left eye indicated the name of monsters, is the trial to defeat them?」

It's horribly lacking explanation, but with this much Mia would understand.

「Yeah, roughly it's like that, but defeating everything is not the only way」

「What does that mean?」

I can't tell you more right now, while saying that Mia puts the fruit in the small mouth.

All the names of monsters that showed red light are monsters of rank 4 above. It won't be bad to train for it.

Probably, I might discover something new related to trials while fighting.

I throw another question to Mia who is eating the fruit with relish「Delicious~♪」

「Then one more, Mia are you really the 'Emperor' written on that (Zero Chronicle)?」

On this obelisk, there is not even a word of the emperor's appearance, so just by looking won't give even one hint.

「I can't prove it for now」

「Will I know after I get the Divine Protection through completing the trials?」

Revealing a vague smile, That's right maybe, Mia answers as such.

Looks like there is no intention to answer me clearly.

In the end, I can't know the name of god until the ritual at temple, until I get the divine protection, getting Mia's true identity is postponed.

「Sorry, The people from ancient times, can tell you the magic and techniques lost in the current era, but——」

「It's violating the rules, right?」

Showing a somewhat surprised face, You're sharp, and said those words of praise to me.

「All the『Black Gods』are people who have lived in this world, People like me who got the Divine Protection are permitted to talk with gods, that's why there are many who tried to get the information about Lost Technologies like this.」

Even so in the current era the ancient magic is classified as Ancient and is said to be impossible to reproduce.

Ancient is the general name of the magic used only in the artifacts found in dungeons.

If that complex Magic Equation was deciphered, then it would've been added into Model Magic and a Magic system used in old days would have been re-created.

「Yeah, that's why I can't tell much about the past」

It's good, than boasting strange things.

「And, is there some other 'Strange Function' in this eye?」

I want to keep it as normal eye as before, it would be troublesome if some kind of beam suddenly fired from the eye.

「Haha, It's fine, it won't make any strange reaction to create problems during fights」

So this eye can actually read the atmosphere.

Or rather, is Mia reading the atmosphere or this eye only?

「Then I will be going back soon, anything else you need to ask?」

It doesn't feel like I'm getting answers in return, while making a wry smile,

「Ah, then one more」

「What is it?」

I decided to attack Mia with the question I had since the point I met Mia yesterday.

「Are you man? or a girl?」

Then, Mia changes to a sullen expression,

「It's just as it looks!」

and roared, as to show her displeasure, Mia left the place angrily.

When the small figure disappears in the crowd of people, I murmur.

「Just which one is it.....」

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. .
.

The talk with Mia was not at all good, but it did help in killing the time I had to wait for those two.

They appeared in the plaza while passing the crowd, it was already noon so we decided to have lunch at some place to eat.

「Still, there are quite a lot people」

Though it's due to the time period, but this quarter with shops serving foods has more population density than at the plaza.

「No wonder it's called Academy District, there are many students」

Just as Fiona says, the people wearing blazer like uniform clothes do stand out more than they did at the guild.

Obviously there are some people who look like middle-aged men and women, but most are young boys and girls of the same age as me.

Looking at that, I recall my times of a high-schooler.

Or rather, based on my age I'm still a 2nd Year student of High School, it won't be strange for me to say myself as an active student.

No, I'm not going to School now so it's bad to lie, After all I'm an adventurer who left the school in the middle of term, that's true.

「Kurono, you want to go to school?」

Huh, was I that much immersed in my emotion that it showed on my face?

「That's right, it would lie to say that I don't want to, but right now there is no time for that」

Unfortunately, I end my sentence with that word, but I get objection words thrown at me from some truly unexpected.

「No, it's a good idea to go to school」

That was Fiona who shouldn't have good memories of school.

「It won't do any good to study after so long?」

My ultimate goal is to acquire power to defeat those apostles, the most short and certain way is to raise my rank as an adventurer to fight stronger monsters.

Either way, it's not a problem that can be solved by learning National Language, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

「Oh, was the objective of school only to learn written knowledge in Kurono-san's birthplace? In Spada's schools, you can learn the magic, techniques, Martial Skills, and all things necessary to live as an adventurer」

I only had the image of a school to have 5 + a little more courses, but, I see, this is another world so there might be schools that tell things like that.

Thinking back that students took the quests at guild, it means they're being trained as adventurers.

「I see, so there are places like adventurer training centres?」

「rather than that, in places like this the ‘combat techniques’ like magic and martial skills are studied, developed, and practiced, it was like that in the Republic」

According Fiona’s explanation, they are playing the roles like the universities in Earth, like researching the latest technologies at places like that.

I definitely had the image of the laboratory places to be in some remote place inside forests with magicians, but in this world with magic, it’s only natural for it to be researched in this big-city.

「Now that I think about it Kurono-san, it’s not been even a year since you have come to ‘this world’, so why not take this opportunity to learn the basics of the basics?」

「Yeah, that might be good idea」

It’s only been 3 hard months since the day I met Lily on 4th of Ryokufu Month till today 14th of Hatsuhi Month, though it was quite a dark period of time, but it’s hard to say that I have learnt about this world.

It wouldn’t have been a problem to live as an adventurer of rank 1 in Village of Irz, but in this big-city called Spada, I have to stand on top of many adventurers, so I have to learn many things too.

「Shall we postpone knowing the school system here for a later time?」

For the time being it won’t be good if I don’t complete today’s goal, after that would be fine, no, after we become rank 2 adventurers.

「If I went to school, what would you two do?」

Though I say what would they do, the feeling to enjoy the school life stolen from me along with these two is swirling in my heart like a muddy stream.

Along with these two, it would be more troublesome than my previous world, but there’s no doubt it would be more humourous.

「Lily will also go with Kurono to school!」

「Yeah, I see, then let’s go together!」

Now would Lily be able to not enter the elementary schools, I thought that for a second, but this lovely fairy is 32 years old lady, there shouldn't be any problems.

「I too. With you it feels like I can live a good school life, so I would like to once again go」

Maybe the lonely life at the Magic Academy in Elysion has left traces, her comment was quite negative, but because her feelings are like me, it's okay.

「Then, we three will go to school together」

「But I want to quickly eat noon lunch first」

That's right, While smiling wryly, we searched for a shop to eat and walked on the streets of Spada full of people.

Chapter 168 – In Search for a Robe

After eating our meal at this restaurant which had an Orc with a scarred face as the manager that made one ask – Are you a former mercenary with a long experience of being in service?, we left to complete our plan for the afternoon which was to buy equipment.

“There are so many stores that I can’t decide where to start.”(kuroono)

After crossing the plaza once again, we reached the crowded shopping district that had various shops for adventurers lined up like weapon shop, item shop, a blacksmith workshop, and even a suspicious looking magic item specialist shop as well.

They weren’t ones used by normal people but even so the number of adventurers here was simply too big compared to a rural village. And even here countless number of people were passing through here.

As expected, since I’m a Japanese, I am used to such big crowds so I wasn’t carried away by the flow of people.

And since their various shops here and I since I had no sort of guide which I could have referred beforehand, just as I had said, I was currently troubled in deciding which shop I should start from.

When the number of people increases, the percentage of bad guys mixed with them also increases. I’m sure that in this city as well, shops that aim to fool newbie adventurers exist.

“Kuroono look! That robe looks so cute!!”(lily)

Near my legs, Lily sparkled in high tension. In her line of sight, a white fluffy robe with bunny ears attached was being displayed.

That too, it was made for babies. It was a size which would perfectly fit Lily. This is what destiny must be like!

“It seems that shop specialises in selling magic robes.”(Fiona)

“Is that so? Then let’s go check it out.”(kuroono)

After all, our party is one made of all magicians and completely ignores every adventurer theory used.

Since there are no warriors or knights to act as the vanguard, we [Element Master] had no business with the armour shop.

Well, the only one who needs a new defensive gear right now is me since I lost my [Baphomet's Embrace].

If the shop specialises in magician robes then I should be able to find a black robe befitting me, a black magician.

While getting excited about the robes I had not even seen yet, I cut through the crowd and opened the doors to [Fix & Fica], the magic robe specialist shop.

By the way, Lily was still entranced with the white bunny robe in display at the window and didn't enter with me.

"Welcome."

In a voice that didn't sound too welcoming, the middle-aged woman sitting on the counter glanced towards me.

Having a tall nose just like the witches in those fairy tales, she also had a glaring look but as if she was not interested in me, a customer, she returned back to reading the hardcover book in her hands.

As I looked as she said nothing at all, I judged that it should be fine to look around by myself.

Since I didn't really have much expectations in the first place, I didn't mind her being not very courteous and walked around the inside of the shop which was bigger than I expected.

At a single glance, half of the robes here were either black, grey or white.

The robes had been displayed on some mannequins but will they arrange it in a different size for me if I ask them to?

While thinking such things, I looked at the various types of robes casually.

Unlike the Irz village's item shop, most of the articles displayed had a price tag attached to it.

Since they had no intention to negotiate the prices, that's why they can show such a dry attitude towards customers, eh? No, maybe that's just how that witch-like old lady is normally.

"What do you think?"(Fiona)

Suddenly, Fiona asked me while standing beside me.

"Since I can't really appraise them, I am not sure about anything with just seeing them."(kuroono)

There was not a single one here that was a high class item with a defensive magical enchantment that even I could sense. Also, with every robe, the affinity to an element, elemental resistances and the level of defensive magic, all change.

More than half of the ones here had used the skin of monsters, without knowing what monster had been used I couldn't even roughly discern what kind of property it would have.

"I'll just obediently ask if they have any robe that is suited for black magic."(kuroono)

"Considering the grade of this shop, I doubt something very high quality would appear though."(Fiona)

Fiona-san, those things shouldn't be said out loud even if you think that's true.

While hoping that miss shopkeeper didn't hear that, I headed towards the counter.

"Excuse me."(kuroono)

"What?"

The woman looked at me with a really sharp glare.

Un, though she's wearing a simple apron that had the shop's logo on it, if she were to wear the same clothes as Fiona, she'd completely look like a perfect witch.

While holding such rude thoughts, for the time being I asked for the thing I was looking for.

“Do you have a robe called [Baphomet’s Embrace]?”(kurono)

It had been destroyed after the fight with Cyprus and then taking on Fiona’s Aur Soleil, but if possible, I’d like to get the same thing—

“Don’t talk foolish Rank 1, those apprentice use robes over there would suit you more.”

An incredible abuse came at me.

At the end of the line where she pointed, a simple black robe with a ‘For newcomer use!’ board was kept.

“Umm, I had been wearing [Baphomet’s Embrace] before as well so I’m looking for a new one. Do you know of any store that might be keeping them?”(Kurono)

Since this old woman doesn’t seem to be interested in selling me one even if she had one, I changed my question.

“Had been wearing before? Hah, what, so you’re a spoiled brat of some noble? Then ask your wealthy ‘papa’ to take you to one of those ‘upper’ stores. They’ll have the ‘amazing magic equipments’ that you’re looking for.”

What an incredible level of sarcasm. Let alone the son of a noble, I’m not even a resident of this world. Family and lineage is the last thing that has any connection with me.

But, if I try to interpret her words well, then these ‘upper’ stores, basically the stores in the upper strata of the city might have [Baphomet’s Embrace].

But that’s troublesome. I’ll need some kind of big achievement to be allowed to pass to the upper levels or I’d need a special level of permission.

After arriving to Spada, I had received the explanation and reward for the emergency quest from the guild HQ but that was a one-time thing allowed by the Spada government.

To normally go the upper levels, I’ll need to become rank 4 as an adventurer.

“If you want high level equipment like your companion witch then go to the upper levels. Only come here when you’re coming to the school or the guild. I’m not trying to make fun of you but an ignorant rich kid like you would catch the eyes of bad guys that live here.”

Hihihi, the old woman laughed as if she was the representative of those bad guys but I decided to ask something that caught my attention.

“Her equipment is really that amazing?”

I mean of Fiona, of course.

If I recall correctly, she had said that she built it as her graduation exam in Elyson magic academy I think.

Normally, she seems to create magic items but as expected, to collect materials, plan, and manufacture it all alone, such memories would definitely become a far too gloomy of an episode to listen to while chatting over a cup of tea.

“Even without appraising, you can tell what kind of thing is that in a single glance. Abyss silk and feathers of a Black Bird, on top of it, there’s something included in the lining as well. If she was not acting as your bodyguard, that witch would definitely be a rank 4 adventurer.”

I don’t really understand but apparently some amazing ingredients have been used by her.

Also, I have become a rich noble brat and Fiona has apparently become my escort for some reason.

“Well, the fairy who’s admiring the bear rabbit Kid’s robe outside also has an Ancient velvet for clothing. Who made it in the size of a child’s I wonder.”

Not a rabbit but a bear rabbit?! No, rather than that,

“That’s something I gave to her as a present. Got any problem?”(kurono)

“You really are of a high status eh? To give such a high class present to a pet, nobles really do have extreme hobbies hihihihi.”

As expected, I became irritated on seeing Lily being treated as a pet.

“She isn’t a pet, she’s a precious comrade of mine.”(kurono)

“Comrade? Hihi, so is that a new trend? Well, it’s better than just spoiling her as you please.”

It seems I’ll have to explain from the start that I’m not just some rich noble

brat who's playing as an adventurer along with a beautiful escort and a cute pet.

But, I guess the reason must be that I asked for a high class item even though I'm just a rank 1 adventurer.

Well, I don't have the image of [Baphomet's Embrace] as a high class item that I can't deserve since I'm used to wearing it but to an outsider like her, it would really look like that.

It can't be helped, it's not like I had much money and I didn't know how much would a high class item like that cost so now at least I know that it's too costly for me right now.

Right now, I should complete some quests and collect some money then go to buy such items.

Till then, yeah, let's go with that newbie magician robe.

"Can I have that?"(kuroono)

As I showed the will to buy the robe she had pointed out earlier, her sharp eyes showed a slight surprise.

"hee, to take this old woman's sarcasm honestly, did you have some sheltered upbringing, boy?"

"I'm not some noble, I really am a rank 1 adventurer."

Don't try to act cool. While still not believing me, she went inside the store to bring the robe.

As she returned before even a minute had passed, in her hands was the same robe displayed here with one bigger size.

"10,000 klan."

After asking for the money that held no discount, I was about to bring out 1 gold coin, but stopped.

That gold coin was earned at Irz village created in Daedalus. After being captured by the Crusaers, I doubt these coins with dragon print on them are still in circulation.

Thinking that I had no reason to let go of a coin that held a lot of memories for

me, I decided to pay it out of the reward of the emergency quest I had received in klans.

“Thank you for your patronage.”

After hearing her shopkeeper like words instead of witch-like, I wore the robe there itself.

The feeling wasn't bad but it was nowhere near the sensation of becoming a part of my body that the [Baphomet's Embrace] gave.

Now that I think about it, I didn't feel hot even when wearing it in summer but this one made it hotter almost instantly.

Still, it's not unbearable. Without showing any discomfort, I decided to leave since I was done with my business here but then I stopped, and asked her.

“That, rabbit robe, how much does it cost?”(kuroono)

“37,000 klan”

That much!?!

It's a cost big enough that would make me hesitate to buy instantly.

“I'll come back to buy it after I reach rank 2.”(kuroono)

“Hihihi, I'll be looking forward to it.”

While taking her ill gaze on my back, I left the store.

Now then, next is weapons but the fact that I'm a rank 1 and my lack of funds is clear. It'll probably be impossible to get both, a wand of [Black Ballista Replica] and swords for Magic Sword Arts.

After leaving the store with Fiona, and pulling away Lily who seemed to have gotten attached to that bunny robe, we left towards the weapon shop.

Chapter 169 – Mordred Weapon Company

(1)

We entered the weapon shop with the giant board [Modred Weapon company – Academy district branch].

The reason why I chose this store was because it greatly stood out even in this neighbourhood.

In the first place, if I wanted a high class weapon, I'll have to go to the upper strata in any case.

If I had to buy just normal weapons, then it doesn't matter where I buy it from.

And without much expectations, hoping only to get at least some swords for my magic sword arts, I passed through the giant wooden door.

The inside of the store seemed to be bustling with people. A big muscled man was testing a battle hammer, goblins were comparing daggers and knives, and a nervous looking magician elf was being troubled in deciding over the staff and wand in his hand.

Further inside the store, a sharp-styled golem was swinging around a large sword and a storekeeper was trying to stop him somehow.

It was noisy yet get off an energetic atmosphere which seemed suitable for an adventurer's weapon shop.

For the time being, let's look for a replacement for my [Black ballista Replica] and also find some long swords in reasonable price.

Lily and Fiona have gone to check out magic item accessories. It'll be nice if they find something good.

"yup, I have no idea what's good or bad about these ones....."(kuro no)

I haven't searched all over the shop but I did go through the wands and swords corner and decided that it'd be better to ask the shopkeeper for advice and moved towards the counter.

“Welcome! What are you looking for today?”

A normal looking man, much more amicable than that witch old hag, greeted me.

On his apron, a pirate-like skull emblem was printed along with the words [Mordred Weapon Company].

No matter how much you guys are dealing with arms and deadly weapons, isn't that logo a bit too straight?

But I don't have any reason to mind that so I quickly conveyed my need.

“Do you have a wand that specialises in black magic?”

“Well, that's a rare type of magic you use. Unfortunately, we only deal with major common weapons here so minor demand weapons like that aren't available here. You could have one order-made at the head branch but considering your rank, that'd be difficult you see?”

Of course I didn't have any appraisal skills so I have no choice but to depend on the shopkeeper.

Fiona had a much better eye for this than me but apparently she's not knowledgeable about black magic either so she couldn't really help.

Guess I have no choice, I'll have to use black magic without a wand like old times. I should be able to take down enemies like Salamander for now somehow.

“Then forget about the wand. I need 10 long swords but can they be prepared in around 100,000 klans?”

I did mention the price because they might be having some costly top class swords here as well but for some reason the shopkeeper looked at me with a pitiful warm gaze and spoke.

“Dear customer, this might be none of my business but you should fight against being a gofer from the start, you know?”

Eh, What? Gofer? What the hell?

“Well, it happens a lot when an apprentice magician catches an strong upperclassman's eye and gets turned into a Gofer for him but being

underestimated like that all the time is not good really—“

It seems once again a misunderstanding is being created.

First it was a noble brat, this time it's a weak 1st year magician.

My face definitely doesn't give that feeling so was it a mistake for me to buy that apprentice robe?

“Um, those swords are all for my use so it's fine.”(kuro no)

I did try to fix his misunderstanding but going by the man's eyes, I don't think he believed me.

Well it's obvious. An apprentice magician has no use for 10 swords after all, normally speaking.

“Anyway, if 1 sword is to cost 10,000 klan, then only the lowest level of swords can be prepared, but is that fine?”

With blackening I can turn even blunt swords to sharp ones so even though low class, new swords should be able to work against at least low level monsters.

Well, I still have the [Hararetsu] so it's not really a prob—

“Ah.”

I remembered now.

That's right, I can use cursed weapons. It's been a long time since I went to buy something so I had completely forgotten about this.

I should be able to get a pretty good weapon with 100,000 at least.

“Excuse me, do you keep Cursed Weapons?”

I tried asking but,

“Cursed weapons?”

The man started looking at me even more with sympathetic eyes.

“I understand that you're frustrated as a gofer but you'll end your life with those, you know?”

I was warned.

Oh, I give up! I didn't expect having a low rank as such a big problem.....

While I was thinking of how to make him bring out the cursed weapons,

“Ou, I’m here old man!”

A third person’s voice came.

“Ah, Jouto-sama! Welcome again!”

The shopkeeper, as if he had forgotten about me, went to that man called Jouto and started talking politely.

This man called Jouto was werecat, and was also a swordsman considering that his equipment looked like Nino.

But unlike the now dead swordsman of Irz, this one had a face like a Siamese cat and had eyes that seemed to possess a confidence in his own strength and was looking at the shopkeeper with eyes that looked at a lower ranked person.

On his chest, a silver guild card was hanging as a proof of his strength.

A rank 3 adventurer, a rank high enough to gain preference over a lower ranked person like me.

Well, I don’t feel good about this though.

“—Please wait a second, I’ll bring it here in a moment.”

The old man, probably to bring a sword, left the counter.

I stood there silently as a spectator.

Then, that werecat, while folding his arms as if bored, turned to look towards me.

“.....fuh.”

Giving a snort, he looked away after losing interest.

Well sure you have the higher rank but that attitude really is pissing me off. Even Nino who came to pick a quarrel with me at the very first meeting gave a better impression.

As his image overlapped with my friend’s, displeasure arose in me towards his disgusting attitude.

But I’m not short tempered enough to pick a fight over just that. After all,

Spada is filled with adventurers. I probably won't even meet him ever again.

While I was thinking that, the shopkeeper returned.

With a giant sword wrapped in cloth.

"Here, please take a look!"

Proud of it, the man gave the sword to Jouto.

Jouto he easily took the sword and removed the cloth wrapped around it.

"Oh, could this be——"(jouto)

A curious gaze filled his eyes.

But, I was even more surprised than him.

"Yes, it just arrived yesterday, [Fang Sword – Evil Eater]!"

On the large blade that looked like a single fang of a monster, countless scars of going through various battles could be seen. The grip also seemed aged and I had definitely seen it being swung around countless times beside me. No doubt, this is Vulcan's sword.

"Is it real?"(jouto)

"Yes, we already appraised it as a proof. Should I bring out the certificate if you want?"

Jouto smiled and refused.

"The Fang Sword, even if second-hand, would usually be kept by the head branch but this one was an extremely used one so it was sent here."

"Nice, right at the time when I could rise up to rank 4, I got this. This must be destiny."(jouto)

The shopkeeper continued his 'sales talk' as Jouto seemed to be captivated by the sword.

"Since it has the effect of 'eating' magical energy, it doesn't have any effects like Hardening, Lightening, or Sharpening-like enhancement magic but the raw materials used are top class! Even without such magic, its hardness is great and is light yet sharp which is incomparable to a steel sword. On top of it, since it

absorbs magical energy, it regenerates and fixes itself even if it gets slightly chipped. As expected of a blade made from a rank 5 Chaos Eater, its performance is incredible!”

“Yeah, I can swing this easily with just this much weight. It’s size is a bit of a problem but if it’s me, I’ll soon get used to it!”(jouto)

“Yes, I’m sure of it!”

The man agreed and satisfied, Jouto asked him.

“What happened to its previous master? You should know if you appraised it right?”(jouto)

“Yes, of course. It was a Werewolf man and he was quite the veteran as well it seems.”

So it really is Vulcan’s sword.

But why is this sword here? It should be at the highway—Oh I see, it must have been recovered by the Spada army and must have been sold to this weapon company.

The weapons of strong adventurers are more valuable than precious gems sometimes, they wouldn’t leave it there like that.

But, I could only feel vexed seeing Vulcan’s sword being sold off like this in front of me.

“Heh, to have fallen even with such a sword, he must not have been that amazing.”(jouto)

No matter what the reason, this is a fair trade. It’s being sold to a fucking irritating werecat but I decided to stay quiet.

But, it’s becoming even more irritating now that he’s insulting my comrade.

After some hesitation, I decided to say something but,

“C’mon, Jouto hurry up!”

“Oh, sorry, I’ll be there in a sec!”

After hearing the voice of a female party member, Jouto returned the sword to the man and turned.

“Prepare a sheath for it. I’ll come back later and pay it lump-sum with gold.”(Jouto)

As the shopkeeper thanked him from behind, Jouto quickly left.

It might have been good that it ended without me causing any trouble but my feelings haven’t settled down yet properly.

“I’m sorry, I made you wait.”

With a smile that didn’t seem very sorry, the man returned to me.

He must have been happy after selling a high quality item.

“So, I believe I asked you to show me cursed weapons.”(Kuronon)

I wasn’t feeling really good right now so my words might have been a bit prickly.

“hah, I can’t really recommend cursed weapons. I can’t bring them out unless they’re reliable like the adventurer that just came. Also, even if a cursed weapon is sold at lower cost, 100,000 still won’t be enough.”

“Then, how much will it cost?”

“1 million at least.”

I see.

When I bought the [Basilisk’s Bone (needle)] it didn’t even cost half of that amount but I guess in a big store like this, storage risk would be low so the incentive of getting it out of their hands as fast as possible won’t work here either.

Or maybe, the items might be simply that good.

But nevertheless, I don’t have a million klan on me right now so I won’t be able to buy—no, wait, even if I don’t have money I do have something worth millions.

“Do you purchase weapons here as well?”(Kuronon)

“Yes we do, you have something to sell?”

As he agreed, I brought out a silver shining sword from within my shadow

underneath me, it was the divine [Mithril Sword].

“I’ll get a million for this right?”(kuroono)

“Wha—-“

The man’s eyes widened with surprise and he looked between the sword and my face repeatedly.

He thought I was a gofer and an apprentice magician so it must be too much for him to think that I would be possessing such a high quality item. Considering the cost, I couldn’t have normally bought that.

Well, it’s a fact that I did technically steal it.

“So? If you can prepare money to buy this, you can show me your cursed weapons as well right?”(kuroono)

“Ah, no, but, appraisal also has.....”

Maybe he really didn’t want to show an apprentice cursed weapons, the man seemed to be at a loss.

No, if he’s still hesitating now, it might be better to simply rake up some money and raise my rank to buy the weapons but,

“Are you interested in Cursed Weapons, Apprentice Magician-kun?”

Once again, a third voice came in between.

Who is this time? Thinking that, I turned and

“....!?!“

A giant death god was standing there.

But soon I remembered Mossan, and figured out that this man, with a body even bigger than me, must be of the skeleton race.

Death god, is what I said but only his black robe fit that image. His whole body was thickly covered with golden ornaments and he had a long staff with multi coloured precious gems inlaid in it that gave off a rainbow-coloured light. That image was truly that of a [Lich].

His nouveau riche king-like overdressed up figure really fit the high ranked

undead class, Lich.

In his empty eye sockets, purple flames shined as a proof of his magical existence.

Although I was surprised by him, I didn't get overwhelmed and looked towards this skeleton's face.

For the time being, I decided to ask him who he was but,

"Mo, President Mordred!! Why have you come here!?!"

The man revealed his identity already.

I see, so this man is the top position of this company.

Well then, why does such an amazing person have something to do with me who is nothing but an apprentice magician?.....

Author's note – The Spada army didn't just loot their items *etc.* they also gave the dead ones a proper burial as well. (T/N: figured I should TL this as well since it was slightly relevant.)

Chapter 170 – Mordred Weapon Company

(2)

(POV third person)

「How about it, I can exchange that normal『Mithril Sword』with a cursed『Mithril Sword』?」

Hurriedly completing the self-introduction, Vein Wortz Mordred, the owner of Mordred Weapon Company said as such.

On hearing the offer, without being delighted by it, he directed a puzzled glance to the big-sized skeleton.

「Why that deal for a rank 1 adventurer like me?」

Kurono stood in a position with no gaps absolutely impossible for a rank 1 adventurer, but Mordred calmly answered while wavering the purple flame in his eye socket.

「It's alright don't be so vigilant, it's only like a hobby for me. I like cursed weapons, I'm somewhat famous as a collector in the neighbourhood, however, I like a person who can use those cursed weapons even more」

「That's why you give them to those who are searching for it, huh」

But yeah it won't be all for free, saying a businesslike line, Mordred confirms.

「Can you show them to me?」

Of course I will, along with that answer, the shadow below Mordred expands and is dyed into a color of darkness from abyss of hell.

And like the lady of the lake, a single silver sword with the hilt above rose to surface.

Though Kurono got surprised seeing the same magic Dimension as him in front of him, but he directed his attention to the Cursed『Mithril Sword』without showing any hint of surprise on his face.

It's length was the same as Cyprus's sword, but with ornaments at many

places affixed into it, just like a decorative ritual sword.

Couple with the silver lustre of Mithril, one swings from it seems like divine.

「You want to use Cursed Weapons, right? Try taking it in hands」

On the provocative words of Mordred,

「That's right」

Kurono decided to ride on the flow.

In the first place one won't understand a cursed weapon without taking it in hands, not always they release the ominous atmosphere like the Cursed Hatchet.

Across the sides of Cursed『Mithril Sword』both of their eyesights intersected, in a moment of silence if felt like the domination feeling has risen.

And without losing his way, he reached out his hand to the hilt of silver shining sword.

「.....Hm」

The moment he grabbed the sword, a painful and resentful voice resounded in Kurono's mind.

Kurono has experienced that phenomenon many times, now, it's neither strange nor fearful to him.

At the very least, to scare Kurono, it would need to have the double resentment『Cursed Grudge hatchet「HaraRetsu」』has.

Upon holding, the voice of this sword is really weak that it can't be compared with the hatchet.

Kurono swings the sword two-three times at that place, and returns it back expressionless to Mordred.

「Fabulous! You have a strong heart to control the cursed weapons」

To the not insane Kurono, Mordred raised a joyful voice.

Even without swinging the sword madly, there are some patterns for knowing the person being possessed by curse, in the case of grudge curses, the most popular pattern is to not let go of the weapon.

At the point Kurono returned back the sword to Mordred is the most definite proof that he didn't get possessed by curse.

「I had been searching for talented person like you, I seriously want you to use this sword!」

「In exchange with this, huh?」

Kurono takes a glance at Cyprus's sword put at counter with cold eyes.

「It might not be something you need to worry, right. If you just conquer the curse of weapon, then you can easily use the powerful ability of weapon afterwards. Incidentally it doesn't have any showy effect, but compared to a normal『Mithril Sword』the hardness, weight, durability and other fundamental abilities are far surpassing, of course, it has double power to ward off darkness. That's why don't use it against me, an undead, alright?」

HaHaHa, as though getting lured by the laughing Mordred,

「Ku, Hahahahahaha!」

Kurono too started laughing.

And with a truly strange expression, said as such.

「Haha, in this short 17 years of life this is the first time I have been in a 'scam', I got a good experience from it, thank you」

Saying that Kurono took the sword on counter in his hands, and turns his heel back to leave.

「Wait」

Really heavy, a voice sounding like that of a Grim reaper reached Kurono's back.

「Saying something like scam to me, I don't think it's good to kick my good intention one-sidedly」

「Good Intention? So in Spada the intention to give a newbie adventurer wanting cursed weapon, something like a forgery is called as good intentions, huh?」

Looking back, Kurono sprayed light on Mordred's scam deed.

「Hearing that ‘voice’, most would believe it to be cursed weapon. I can easily understand that, that weak shit doesn’t even compare to a real curse, but if a self-conscious idiot would hold it, he/she would easily accept that it’s a cursed weapon. Now for the touches, if you add shit like talent and whatnot, of course he/she would come biting at your bait without even doubting, on this Mithril ‘Plated’ fake sword」

It looks like a real『Mithril Sword』but, the reason he could know that it was plating wasn’t because he ripped it’s surface off.

Thinking it was a cursed weapon, the moment Kurono tried to use blackening for conquering the grudge of weapon, he didn’t feel the speciality of Mithril, the powerful resilient force which he did during the time he tried to conquer Cyprus’s sword.

Of course, the moment he heard the snicker and resentful complaints completely different from the hatchet, it was more than enough proof for it to be proved as a fake.

Most probably, it isn’t a true curse, but a magic trick rather than curse to let the wielder hear the voice for deceiving.

「Fufu.....Fuahahaha! You, are a collector of real cursed weapons even with that appearance!」

「No, I’m not a collector」

「I did a rude thing to person with same hobby as me, sorry, let me apologize」

To the unapologetic and haughty attitude of Mordred, Kurono passed over the anger and showed a fed up expression.

「Is it alright that a famous big weapon dealer like you, should be doing something like scamming?」

「It’s the work of an adult, no, a collector, to scold a youngster like you who is underestimating cursed weapons」

Mordred didn’t show any room for repentance of his actions, but it did show his love and affection for cursed weapons.

But still Kurono still though it wasn’t good to be doing scam.

「You're Kurono, right, all right, as per your wishes, let me show you the cursed weapons in our company's possession」

「No, It's alright」

「Though this is not the main office, but here too are many good weapons, choose at your own discretion! But you won't even get 1 klan of discount though, Fuhahahahahahaha!!」

Mordred showed a menacing ignoring skill, no, most big dealers might have this much vitality, maybe.

「.....Well, if it's just looking」

It would let him complete his work at first, though it would be annoying, but Kurono let himself drift with the flow.

Chapter 171 – Lover Rendezvous in Moonlit Night

By the time I returned to the inn, the sky had already started to be dyed red.

After arranging all the minimum necessary equipments and items, we three reached back while talking to eat the dinner at some shop, but in the end we ate the dinner in the dining hall of『Cat's Tail』where the quality of food is 60 points and quantity is 100 points.

I come in front of the guest room, open the thin door and enter alone.

From the time we started staying here I slept together with Lily, but from yesterday she had been sleeping in the next room to mine, Fiona's room.

The rooms are both same, but it might be different with different sleeping partner, well I had been with Lily always so it's a little lonely for me, but I have no right to complain so I'm letting Lily do as she wants.

「Either way, I'm tired」

I throw off the glittering black robe with a symbol of First-year Student embedded into it, and immediately sit on the bed.

The time I wore『Baphomet's Embrace』, unexpectedly I had never thought to remove it other than the time I slept, but that ain't happening with this fake look-alike robe.

It needs to be taken off during the time I want to relax.

It's better to put it away before it gets creases, thinking that I throw it inside the『Shadow Gate』which had it's belly full unlike the morning.

After all I filled it with 15 long swords, while having the spare energy of 5 extra swords, I can now use Sword Arts.

Incidentally the extra 5 swords were given as a service to make up for the same he pulled off.

I don't know if the solatium for the crime of fraud is really worth 50K Klan or

not, but I had no intention to complain about it and stiked the deal.

Well though it went fine this time, but like hell I would go to shop like that another time! Oh, I'm not that much angry, when I get more money collected, I'm thinking of going to buy a cursed weapon for sure. [ET: hell he's being contradictory, but yeah it's not that I don't like it]

Speaking of cursed weapon, eventually, I didn't buy it.

Selling the『Mithril Sword』would've gotten me the money to buy two cursed weapons, but thinking of fighting against monsters with darkness attribute or black magic, I rethink and stopped myself.

Due to Mithril's nature, upon covering it with black magical power it gets purified in some time so it's got the disadvantage of not being used in Sword Arts, but there is no objection is swinging it normally.

All the other cursed weapons I saw were all very fascinating, my heart wavered, but I decided to bear that pain.

Above all, it was annoying to get carried on with that lich skeleton's sales talk.

Well then, It was at the time I thought to check the articles I had brought.

「Hm, letter?」

I noticed the existence of a paper folded four times, placed near the pillow.

What if, it is another message from Simon? Guessing that I opened the letter,

I will be waiting in the plaza tonight.

And only that small sentence was written there.

「Who is it.....」

Anxiety swirled inside my heart, it's natural, getting an anonymous letter anyone would feel anxiety.

Just if I had got this in my high school days, I would've been in high spirits thinking on the possibilities of it being love letter, unfortunately in this situation something that good, I can't expect.

From the people I know who would send a letter to me would be.....Apostles? From 8th Apostle Ai's foolish personality, I completely like hell don't know think

it's written by her written, she would appear almost anywhere while being a normal adventurer.

But, in that case the possibility of naming herself beforehand is high, right? If they want to see my shivering and pitiful state, telling their identity as apostles would have better effect, no doubt.

If it's not Apostle, then the next would be, self-proclaimed god Mia, huh.

No, this side would too will gave name first.

If so, is here another god wanting to bless me with a new divine protection?

If you're another damn god, then appear in dreams and do some oracle or crap.

My thoughts swirl while running around in circles, in this situation with no leads, I can't possibly find the name of sender.

However, ignoring this letter would leave a bad taste, on the contrary it really piques my interest.

I won't go, is a choice I won't take.

.

.

.

「Alright, ready to go」

I put on the robe which was thought to be left alone in the shadow gate today, and step out in the Spada ruled by darkness.

I had already discussed about the letter with Lily and Fiona during the dinner.

「Well then, Lily-san and I will hide in the plaza beforehand, if it feels like dangerous situation, I would release the『Aur Soleil』, please rest assured」

That offer which seemed like a scheme to kill me, only had its first part usable.

「At least keep it to『Ignis Kris Sagita』」

I have given a warning, it would be fine.

I don't have『Baphomet's Embrace』, also have returned『Nana Blast Amulet』

back to Fiona, so I don't have any particular defensive power on me right now.

But well unless an apostle does appear I can get past it, thinking that I walk the street in the dark.

『Cat's Tail』is facing a quite wide road, due to that it can gain the benefit of having the street light, so the road is somewhat bright.

In the first place, today is full moon night, even without the street lights the darkness can be made less.

Maybe it's their return time to inn, I can see some adventurer-esque drunkards.

Seems like only I'm heading towards the plaza, the people who sometimes come across are all passing beside me.

As the plaza is in different location from pleasure quarters, finally the human presence are all gone, only the sound of me kicking the stone pavement can be heard.

Now then, who might be waiting for me, my anticipation rise exponentially wanting to know the answer.

From the contents, the place to meet is most probably the plaza with the obelisk.

Starting from central plaza, there are other places that can be called the plaza but it wasn't stated particularly, so I couldn't think of any other than this.

Incidentally the word 'tonight' is a quite vague designated time, it hasn't been much after the moon soared up in the cloudless starry night sky. Therefore, I wouldn't have made the other person wait long that they went back.

Of course, using this sort of way to call me means, that they have the willpower to wait till dawn.

「Good, just after this, huh」

I walk in high spirits from the entrance of the now deadly quiet plaza which was lively with people in the noon.

It isn't that big, upon entering the『Beginning of History (Zero

Chronicle)』,enshrined in the centre can be seen.

Apparently, there isn't any sign of people in front of the obelisk of more than 10 m size including the pedestal.

「What, no one is here.....」

My head cools down rapidly.

Yes, I had completely thrown the choice of this being a prank into oblivion, that's right, that is the most possible pattern.

While feeling sad and regret for making Lily and Fiona do some labour, I hold on the faint hope of the sender appearing, and move towards the obelisk for waiting some time.

And, when I reached the jet-black wall which is completely immersed in the darkness of night,

「You really did come, Thanks」

That voice came from behind the obelisk.

It is, the sender was already here from before.

I, in a hurry run towards the opposite side of obelisk while feeling half surprised and half vigilance.

Now then, the person waiting for me there was,

「.....Lily」

「I'm sorry, for calling you in this way」

My most intimate and trusted partner in this world, Lily, she was standing there in her true form, the young girl form.

I see, today is full moon night, that's why she can remain in her true form without using divine protection neither『Queen Beryl』

But more that, more mysterious thing is,

「Why did you do something like this?」

That's right, even without sending out an anonymous letter, she can talk to me no matter how much she wants.

If it was something private that she didn't want Fiona to listen, then it could've happened somehow or other.

「.....I'm, sorry」

Lily, dropped her head down with the most sad expression I have seen and spoke the words of apology.

「No, I'm not angry, for Lily to do something like this means there is a reason for it, can I hear it」

Lily always looks pure and innocent even in her little girl form, but that form too has a skill, that is 'to read the atmosphere'.

That's why she won't spring out selfish desires and play pranks as a child, and neither tries to do them.

She has 32 years old equivalent, no not that much, but yeah somewhere along those lines of thinking power and judging power, for her to do this means she has a reason.

Even now I can't find what it is, that's why I'm asking her.

Just what, did happened to her?

「Thank you, Kurono, for caring about me」

「It's natural, what happened, tell me」

Though I didn't speak, Lily can understand my heart, that's why my feelings were transmitted to her.

And, Lily replied quietly.

「I was scared.....when Kurono told me to leave. Kurono didn't want to be by my side, I thought you would go somewhere leaving me alone, in the end, I could only see you going off without having words to stop you.....」

No way, I did think that she would've been worried, but to this extent is somewhat.

「That's why, when you came back during night in high spirits, I was really happy. But, even so I, the adult me, couldn't find courage to call out to you. It would've been better if I remained as the child me and would have lived happily

like today, but that's not good, upon becoming adult, I can't help but think about the bad and scary things——」

Now that I think about it, Lily didn't change her consciousness from yesterday till today even once.

From the day she got『Queen Beryl』, Lily has been conversating, consulting, and chatting with me for some hours everyday.

She must have changed her consciousness on an event like shopping, but, I didn't realize that she didn't.

Without knowing what Lily had hidden in the deepest part of her heart.

「I'm sorry, if I didn't do something like this, the current me wouldn't have been able to meet you, Kurono. I couldn't come, so I asked you come to me, I'm sorry, this is only my selfishness」

「No, I should be the one apologizing, after all because if me you got worried so much. I on my own will got depressed and cheered up, I only thought about myself without understanding about Lily at all.」

Certainly, that defeat, that rejection of me, had enough shock to break my heart into tiny fragments.

But, Lily always was beside my side, she worried about me, cared about me.

That's why, don't be depressed, get yourself together and don't let Lily make that sorrowful face.

「Nope, I'm the one wrong, I got scared on my own——but,」

There Lily cut off her words, kicking the ground with her feet, she jumped right into my chest.

With full moon as the background, the figure of her coming at me while her wings leaves a trace of rainbow color in air, was without a doubt fairytale-like.

I accept the body of Lily, which was small and delicate in this form too while being fascinated.

「Fufu, if you think you're wrong, then can you listen to one of my selfish wishes」

Then, Lily reveals a mischievous smile she rarely shows, and looks at me with her alluring gaze.

I can't possibly refuse, if you look at me with those eyes.

「What is it?」

If I can close the gap created between us while I was being oblivious with just one wish, then shouldn't I take responsibility here and do it.

Lily increased her smile, and answered.

「Kiss me」

Saying that, she looked away and showed her white soft cheeks to me.

「Ah, I wasn't able to do it during the festival last time, right」

「Yeah, That's why this time without fail, okay?」

That time, if I had made decision even a second before, I would've kissed her adult form.

However, I don't have to worry about losing the chance to kiss her, after all the moon's going to be up until dawn. More than anything, this time I won't hesitate.

「Lily——」

It seems like before I knew it, I now cared about Lily as a little sister, care about her as my important family.

Surely, Lily who lived alone till now would be feeling the same.

Though we're not blood-related, but she would be thinking as me as her family. [ET: Dude, you're off the mark by hundred miles, no, adding her Yandere side, you're off the mark by 1000 miles.]

That's why, this time I kiss her cheeks with deep familial emotions.

Chapter 172 – Subjugation Quest x5

「It seems you were enjoying a lot last night」

Next morning, I was sitting in front of Fiona's glare with reproachful eyes in the dining hall of『Cat's Tail』.

「No, well.....Sorry」

Only the words of pathetic apology comes out.

I turn my sight to Lily for some support in the same crime,

「Nh~, Uu~」

But, she is dozing off while shaking her head slightly, she's still not out of her dream world, it seems.

「Leaving me alone, you played in the dead of night.....leaving me alone.....kicking me out」

「That's why sorry! I apologize! I got carried by the flow and played at night with Lily!!」

Having said that, frankly I completely forgot the existence of the girl named Fiona.

Last evening, after meeting with Lily in front of plaza, I plunged into playing in night, after all it was full moon night.

The big city of Spada is really great, the pleasure quarters have a really large scale, there are even bars where men and women can drink the night away.

Of course, there were also indecent shops which are essential parts of night city, but I didn't step in the realm of R-18 yet.

With this and that, along with young girl Lily we ate and drank food and wine, and just like the time in the small hut somewhat 1 month ago, we both have fun while spending the time calmly.

Yes, by leaving this party member, Fiona out.

「While you two were making merry in nightlife, I was peacefully sleeping like a

child in the bed, truly deplorable」

In truth Fiona knew the sender of letter was Lily, and she even cooperated while keeping quiet.

That's why knowing there is no mysterious enemy, she didn't complete her mission to keep guard in the plaza, and only saw off Lily then stayed at the inn.

「I will truly invite you next time, no, I will let you eat as much as you want, it's all up to me, is that fine?」

「.....Weren't you going to complete the quests today?」

「Hm, in that case let's change it to some other day——」

「No, postpone the quests for tomorrow, something like that can be done anytime」

What, you said that and now you're going back on it?!

Well it's fine, Lily seems like she lacks sleep, and there is still time for the time limit of quests, there is no problem to complete them tomorrow.

The real problem is,

「Kurono-san, let's exhaust every food in Spada today」

Whether my purse will go bankrupt or not..... [ET: Learn something from Gintoki!]

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Further next day, on the 16th of Hatsuhi Month, I am standing in front of dining hall of inn——not that, but in front of the open main gates of Spada.

Naturally, to complete the quests.

Yesterday, in between the gourmet tour in Sapda of the gluttonous witch Fiona, we stopped by the guild and registered『Element Master』officially.

The preparations to go out are all done, I want to go out and complete them just really soon, I can't help but be impatient get the reward, due to the light

feeling I'm getting from my purse.

「All right, well then let's go」

「O—」

「Uu—」

Leaving aside Fiona's languidness, Lily is not in high spirits, no she's in a really bad mood.

「What happened Lily?」

「.....Nothing in particular」

The fairy clings at my leg, completely revealing that she has something going on.

No good, I don't understand a thing unless she tells me herself.

「Aren't you sad, that we three will have to go separately?」

But, there was an unexpected person, who unexpectedly answered correctly.

It is Fiona the girl with the reputation of not even trying to read the atmosphere, no, it's not like I'm dissing her because I want to retaliate to her for emptying my wallet.

「Is that true, Lily?」

「Hm—, Yeah, it would be better to go together」

She said such a thing in a lovely way which wavered my heart strings,

「Sorry, we would go on quests as a party later」

But I can't listen to her selfish desires this time.

Were heading to complete the quests, but there are 5 quests to be completed at once, quite troublesome to do together.

All the quests can be completed even bare-handedly, but because the habitat of monsters differ, it's better to go solo rather than going one by one in a party, and it would even finish overwhelmingly faster.

I don't know how much time remains before Crusaders attack here, so I don't want to waste any more time here.

「Yeah, I will work hard!」

「I see, I will look forward to it, Lily!」

Lily still understands the situation clearly, she really is good child.

「Then this is the quest document for Lily」

I give the quest document to Lily with a feeling of giving a child the shopping memo who is going out for errands first time.

Incidentally, the contents are,

Quest: Subjugate Slime

Reward: 10000 klan

Time Limit: 1 month from the agreement of quest

Client: Adventurer Guild

Request Contents: Subjugate 5 slimes. On the subjugation of more than required the reward will be increased.

Written in a quite blunt businesslike way.

The slime subjugation quests are always being offered as quests for guaranteeing the security of people living in area, quests like this are not exclusively put up by other people.

Even the army sometimes goes on quests like this, but due to the monster's marvellous reproductive abilities it's far away from extinction, therefore by taking the help of adventurers too, they can keep the monsters away from human habitations.

By the way, all the quests taken this time are of this type.

Quests like these can be taken by any adventurers, furthermore they're even suitable for the conditions required for upgrading the rank.

「It seems like there is an increase in slimes population within The Great Forest of Latifundia, that's why Lily is going there」

We three enclose the rough map of Spada outskirts, and once again confirm its geography.

Great Forest of Latifundia expands in the northwest of Spada, just like it's name it is a really big forest.

Inside it's deepest part is the dungeon area, it seems even in the shallow areas rank 2 monsters are loitering around, compared to Fairy Garden, a similar dungeon forest, this one's rank is incomparably above.

Though it's like that, with Lily's strength, the shallows areas with rank 2 difficulty level is not even considered as a risk.

「You can come back after completing the goal, we both might be late, so try to subjugate for the whole day with the intention of getting additional rewards」

「Yeah, I will defeat many slimes!」

Like that, Lily is now in charge of slime subjugation quest.

It's not like I'm giving favorable treatment, simply there is nothing else than slime subjugation we can achieve in Latifundia forest.

The monsters for other 4, are all living in the northern part and southern part of Galahad Mountain Range.

「I will leave the Vindol and Dagger Raptor in the southern part to you, Fiona」

「Yes, I will take care of it」

Here too is the same as Lily's reward, time limit, and number of monsters to defeat.

Aside from their individual strengths, for example dagger raptor has high individual power whereas the slimes attack in numbers, so defeating 5 in both doesn't has much difference.

Of course, upon proceeding, defeating the monster with low individual power is more easy.

「I will take care of Goblins and Punpun in northern part」

「Punpun?」

「Pun?」 [ET: This is both the japanese Pun of monster's name and english pun. XD]

I think I had been doing the a serious talk here, but with the pronunciation of

this name of『Punpun』monster,

「Kurono-san, is this another world high-grade joke?」

They are now thinking I'm screwing around.

or rather what the hell is this another world joke, of course to you me being from Japan is me being another world inhabitant, but I don't have any strange sense of humour.

For clearing the misunderstanding, I explain about this Punpun.

「On the quest document it's written as Bear-Rabbit, but it's read as Punpun」

「I see, there are many strange monsters in Pandora」

Though, the name is the only thing that's strange.

I have completed the investigation on this Bear-Rabbit, correction Punpun in the Monster List, from what I read it's not much different from other monsters living a mediocre life.

「Pu—n, pun?」

That's right, only the name is strange.

「Anyway! After clearing them, we all are rank 2, let's complete them quickly and aim for the top!」

Oou! This time surely I got a good cheerful reply.

「Well then, good luck everyone, Dismissed!」

Then, we three start walking separately, towards our own battlegrounds.

Chapter 173 – The Fluffy Army Threat! Bear-Rabbit Punpun!!

After being shaken by the dragon carriage from Spada via Dacia to Avalon, I finally reach the starting point of the northern Galahad mountains, the Village of Dacia.

Incidentally the dragon carriages are, the dragon-sized version of horse-pulled carriages, but the puller is a dragon here.

Though it's a dragon but it's herbivorous, its speed is not to that of horse, but still it traversed the road while kicking rapidly on ground with its thick legs.

This land dragon which is pulling this large cube-shaped carriage, has incomparable power to that of horse, and it's body is like that of an elephant, short and stout.

When I first saw it seemed like a bus to me.

「Well then, I need to work fast」

I landed on the bus stop, and just like that started heading towards the Galahad Mountains.

The time is afternoon, if I enter the mountains from now on it would become evening.

Normally it would be NG for entering the mountains at this time, but thanks to my uselessly tough body I can keep on walking without sleep or food.

It might take more than 3 days for me to remain in the mountain, so I'm not willing to waste my half day of the first day by sleeping.

I start walking in completely opposite direction from the Guild of Dacia, where many other adventure-esque people are going.

If I complete my quota of 5 bodies of Punpun and Goblin, I would be able to wrap this up by today only.

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Near my feet, a light-blue colored skin lizard is lying down with its head cut off.

It's size more that of a crocodile rather than a lizard, and its silhouette is like that of a newt, having suction pads rather claws in front of its legs.

This monster called as Minatokage, a rank 1 monster, inhabits the waterside I'm currently at, and just like their appearance they control water attribute of magic.

The water itself can deal no damage even if it comes falling at you, unless it's got a water pressure of a water cutter or a laser, it won't become any threat as an attack magic.

Of course, Minatokage who have been classified as rank 1, have no way to fire a water pistol that can pierce through iron plate too.

The only nasty part in this monster is, the fact there is corrosive venom mixed in the water currents and water that come out of its mouth.

It has no power to corrode a chain upon touching, but the thing that would get acute damage from its touch is not the body but weapon.

Though it's the low concentrated corrosive liquid, it would easily make a low-grade weapon's iron blade into a dull blade.

Due to this, even a good high-grade article would get damage, and is like a monster that makes low ranked adventurers cry for buying new weapons.

By the way, it's all from the monster list.

「It seems like even my hatchet would be fine taking this much」

I judge it upon touching the corrosive liquid mixture sticking to the now severed head like drool with my finger.

Before it could launch its water pistol or anything, the match got over with my one attack from『Cursed Grudge Hatchet『HaraRetsu』』, in the end the blade itself has no contact with the liquid.

But, it's better to know its power, right.

A high-grade weapon can take on some venomous attacks, so there is no problem in using this Cursed Hatchet.

Or rather, the blade can restore upon drinking blood so even if it gets somewhat worn-out there isn't any big problem.

8th Apostle Ai had opened a great hole in the dead centre, but I took it out today only to find it in wonderful healthy condition.

「Well, let's tear the materials」

The proof of Minatokage subjugation is the most biggest crystal like thorn on its back.

The scales and the organ for refining the corrosive liquid can also be taken out and sold as monster materials, but the current me has neither time nor the skill to do that.

The difference in the class and experience as adventurer get's out here, eh, thinking that I take out the thorn while making crisping sounds.

This Minatokage is the first monster that I have met after getting lost in the mountains while searching for traces of monsters.

It showed hostility and got defeated, but it's not a target for subjugation.

I thought to once again search for Goblins and Punpun while tearing off the thorns,

「Looks like I don't need to do more labour」

But I'm glared at with hostility filled eyes, they got lured in the till here by the smell of the lizard, it seems.

By straining my ears I can hear the heavy breathing and ferocious groaning sounds too.

I can tell that many other presences are in my surrounding to enclose me.

No doubt, I've got no choice of running back here, they themselves came here, shouldn't I welcome them gently.

Right hand equipped with『Cursed Grudge Hatchet『HaraRetsu』』, charging Bullet Arts completed, preparations all completed.

「Come out, I will play with you all」

And as if answering my words,

SFX: Gaoou—oon!!

Various black shadows jumped out in the riverside I stand while bellowing.

「So this is, Punpun.....」

Seeing it's figure, I can only consent the name to be written as Bear-Rabbit.

It is of a kind of dark brown hair color, there are white fur growing on it's stomach, hands and legs, in particular the coloring on its base of throat is closely resembling the Asian black bear.

It has big red eyes, and rabbit like ears protruding.

Having the appearance of both Bear and Rabbit, this is without a doubt a Punpun.

But, I'm not worried about that,

「It feels like cosplay costume, what if there are humans inside it?」

But it's the body and head which is deformed in truth.

There are 4 of them, all four with strangely too big head, moreover it's hair seems to be as soft as that of hair that is tuck on teddy bears.

The are walking on two legs, and are waving their thick arms for appealing the strength, but it kinda looks like they're drumming.

Let it be it's appearance or it's pronunciation, this Punpun name does has a comical sense hidden inside.

I feel a little sense of guilt while subjugating it.

SFX: Gooooaaa—!

But, being ungrateful to my feelings, they try to intimidate me with their appearance as though I broke their hibernation sleep.

Each time a voice resounds, more and more Punpun start coming to the riverfront.

2, 3, 4, hey just how many of these cosplay costumes are here, huh!?

While I think that, finally a different one appears with the height of 3 metres and has it's head bigger than other Puns.

From the scar on its one eye and the intimidation in air, it's easy to guess this one is the boss of this crowd.

Gaoon!

When that Boss Pun cries out in a conspicuously loud voice, the other Puns surrounding me start moving at once.

「Bullet Arts Full Burst」

This time, without hesitating neither panicking I release the load of bullets.

I don't have『Black Ballista Replica』so the power is 1 level lower, yet more than enough to kill a rank 1 monster.

All the Punpuns attacking me from all sides meet with the storm of bullets without exception.

Thanks to the fluffy fur it has a more physical defense than compared to Goblins, but it can't stop my Bullet Arts.

OooOonnn!

The Punpun who came attacking in high spirits, took the bullets head-on, and are falling down in high spirits too.

At this point 3 are dead, the rest 4 are still injured.

There are still 6 Puns or more remaining in the surrounding, but the Boss Pun raises his voice, and the 4 injured ones too leap to the back.

At the same time, Boss Pun picks up the stone lying on the riverfront, no it's a boulder you can say from it's size.

「You going to try stone throwing!?!」

It takes an excellent pitching form and throws the boulder at 200 kmph in a straight line.

I evade it immediately by jumping to the side.

Upon landing, the place I was standing before is the only the ruins of boulder.

But more than the sound of explosion, I am more surprised seeing two Punpun carrying the corpse of decapitated lizard and running away.

These are horribly familiar actions.

SFX: KaoooOOO—NN!!

The Boss Pun raises his bellow, on the contrary to their entrance, this time more than 10 Punpun start plotting for escape.

「I'm sorry, but I would take 2 more of you all」

I can't let them escape like this.

There are only 3 dead on the riverfront, there are still 2 less to complete the quota.

While feeling the guilt that I never felt in killing the Crusaders, I throw the Sword Arts towards the Punpun jumping inside the forest.

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Before I knew it, the sun had already set down.

I throw the corpses of 5 Punpun just like that into『Shadow Gate』.

The demand for Punpun meat and fur is more, therefore the price of its materials too is high.

But here treats it as only either bear or rabbit, while thinking, I put the proof of subjugation right rabbit-ear into another slot.

「However, they were more formidable enemies than Goblins」

I subjugated them the day I met Lily, but no matter how much sword arts (It was Gatling that time) I used, they just kept on coming like idiots.

However that Boss Pun looking at my first attack judged me not as an enemy and ordered the retreat.

And they even shrewdly took back the lizard, impressive.

I can't help but think that they have more intelligence than Goblins in contrary

to their appearances.

If they use items too, no doubt they would become rank 2 monsters.

「There are various types within monsters, eh」

Once again thinking that, I walk in the dark and silent mountain road of Galahad Mountains to search and kill my next target, Goblin.

Chapter 174 – Rushing Slime Fever!?

「Damn it! Don't fuck with me!!」

Rank 2 adventurer Zach, has a skinhead and muscular body appearance and so is the battle axe he is swinging to bring down the attacking slimes, while swinging, he shouts the words of abuse to the comrade who showed its back and ran away leaving him behind.

But, with those words the comrade won't come back, no, (s)he won't come back no matter what words he spoke.

After all though slime is a rank 1 monster, but with a very big crowd of them attacking is something those people who just reached Rank 2 cannot defeat.

Hence escaping, the comrade 1, left Zach behind and ran away.

「Shit shit, don't follow me damn it!」

Thinking back, it was since 13th of Hatsuhi Month that his luck start going down, Zach recalls.

That day, he along with outcasts from the slums he was loitering around, lived a corrupted life extorting money.

But during the evening of 13th, he discovered a girl carrying 10,000 klan that should be beyond her reach, at that time he thought he got a good find, he was so happy that he even gave the words of appreciation to the Black Gods.

Like that, he was able to corner the girl in a blind alley.

Zach confirmed that he would get unexpected perk at that point, and his heart started beating faster thinking he would spend all the money in the night city.

He didn't think of even assaulting the girl, something like that, only someone who is high due to alcohol or drugs would do or only someone broken from nature would do that.

After all, if they made noises in the back alleys of slums, then those broken bastards would come up like hyenas.

In the worst case, those guys would take the money he swindled, even if that didn't occur it's obvious that something really troublesome would occur, he didn't mind hiding his lewd intentions so as to not lose the ten thousand klan.

In the first place, rather than the small girl, it's more better for spending the night with professionals.

Anyway, though he had desire swirling inside his heart, he didn't lay a hand on girl and just took the bag with money.

Then,

「Oi, what are you doing there」

1 single man appeared.

A rank 1 adventurer, with gravely stern eyes, that's how it should have been.

Due to the man, let alone the loss of money, his favorite sub weapon Long sword was broken, the fact he couldn't use magic and martial skills was revealed to his younger brothers, and while returning back home he was bitten by a stray dog, and it became a really troublesome day.

What in particular was bad was, his two younger brothers were grandiosely making it public that Zach is a good for nothing with nothing else than his height.

Zach did well in slums while boasting about his power due to his stern looks, but soon enough the rumours spread, and he was branded as small fry, he also got into troubles with others.

In truth, Zach was an active rank 2 adventurer, without even magic or martial skills, his muscle power was the same as it looked, so when he got into troubles he would handle them himself, but due to rumours, slums became an uncomfortable place for him.

As a result that man said,

「If you can then stop doing this, and try to raise money by working as a genuine adventurer」

He couldn't help but accept those words in this situation, at the very least until the rumours, lose their spread and start to the heat starts to cool down.

Then, he took out the bronze plate Guild Card and Battle Axe with dust on them, and after 1 year he decided to show his face in the guild.

There he took the suitable quest, made a temporary party with suitable people, that's how he came to this Great Forest of Latifundia, a.k.a The Forest of Lati.

And, it all leads to now.

「Pant.....Pant.....Stop fucking with me.....」

It was bad move for him to cut into the group of slimes while doing his job as a vanguard.

The moment Zach stepped one step inside, from the surrounding a light blue colored slime army appeared.

The judgement of temporary members was quite fast while looking at that.

They used Zach who was in a bad position as decoy and escaped on their own, it was heartless action but sometimes, to live, things like this can be done.

In the first place, though they were a rank 2 party, but if they were an old party with lot of experiences, then they would choose to escape everyone and there was a possibility that everyone would return alive.

But, in the end it's a temporary party, if it got a little dangerous, they won't hesitate to disband it.

「UGaaaaa!!」

Neither any skills or anything, just a simple swing.

But luckily that one swing hit the core of 2 slimes and dealt a critical damage to them.

「Great!」

Crushing the dying slimes while leaving their blue body behind by the sole of his solid boots, Zach retreats.

He had been completely surrounded, but right behind him the enemies are less, determined on that fact he started to escape.

It was quite foolish plan, but there is no other plan he could do in the current

situation.

「You damn slime bastards, don't fucking get in my way, OraaaAAA!!」

Many tentacles made from the slimes body grab his hands and legs.

Though he suffers acute pain from getting his skin melted due to acid, but without stopping his dash, forcefully breaks the thin jelly-like tentacles.

I can do it, It's by a paper's width margin but I can be alive——thinking that, he pushes aside the last slime in the back with the help of axe.

He made it out, affirming that he jumped over the brushwoods in front of him and the thing waiting for him

「Hi, Ah.....H, Help——」

「P, Please.....fast」

「AH, Argh——I can't bear it.....」

Were the three temporary party members who left him,

SFX: KoOOOOO

Getting eaten by a giant slime.

「Giant Slime.....impossible, fuck, why in this place?!」

Giant Slime is a monster of Rank 3 difficulty.

It's just a slime that got big excessively, but due to that it got a power up and is regarded as rank 3.

In the shallow areas of the forest where only rank 2 monsters appears, unless someone has really bad luck they won't meet it.

Ah, I really am unfortunate, Zach thought as such while watching the special digestive process of slime.

「Hihaha.....I'm done for.....」

Even without turning back he could tell, an army of slimes has reached.

In the first place, even without the slime army, he wouldn't be able to fight against the giant slime that easily ate 3 rank 2 adventurers.

「Save.....me.....」

Seeing the whole body of three being dissolved, Zach guessed the next one to be eaten was him.

Maybe the Giant Slime had somewhat tomcat full after eating the three humans, he didn't capture Zach by spreading out its tentacles.

To make up for that, the various slimes from behind do the same work and send out tentacles to Zach's muscular body.

「I'm dead.....I will die.....」

Though he felt many tentacles spread at him, Zach just stood grabbing his battle axe without moving even a bit.

Then finally, the pointed end of tentacles touch his body, his darkish skin starts to melt.

The moment the acute pain from before ran through him,

「Uwwaaaa! Don't do it!! Stop it!!」

With tears, snot, and drool flowing out, Zach tried to rampage as much he could.

「Stop it! Don't come 'ereeeeeeee!!」

While in rampage, he would, with his axe, stop slime attacks and sometimes deal a lethal attack to their cores.

But, the number of slimes he had defeated are somewhere along the lines of 3 or 4.

He can't possibly stop the waves of uncountable number of slimes with just that much of resistance.

「Uwwaaa, Aaaaa——」

However, by struggling more the more despair is born.

Maybe the hunger of Giant Slime was stimulated seeing Zach swinging his battle axe, it formed log like tentacles and extended them as to surround Zach's surroundings.

「Ah, AH.....」

Having the giant body of Giant Slime standing in his way, finally he lost his fighting spirit.

He couldn't help but only cry shiver and keep on holding the battle axe, without being able to do a thing.

His mind starts filling with fear of death, without having anything to think, the head went blank white, at that moment, truly white light shined in front of his eyes.

「.....Aa!?!」

When he thought that a dazzling flash attacked him, the semi-solid bodies started to fall on his body like a downpour.

「W, What is this!?!」

He wiped his face off in a hurry for confirming the situation, opening his eyes there is no sign of the Giant Slime anywhere, instead a light green colored 2 meters large sphere is floating there.

What is this light ball——He immediately understood that it isn't the core of Giant Slime.

That is because he has confirmed the red colored things, core of slimes, scattered everywhere.

Then what would it be, his doubt deepens,

「Uu—!」

Just when the light of sphere fades away, the true identity is revealed.

「What? Why, this brat?」

A single small girl is clad in the sphere of light.

「No.....you, a fairy?」

The blonde hair, green eyes, and more than anything else, the pair of rainbow-colored wings sprouting from her back, frankly explain what she is.

「Ee—ii!!」

But to Zach's question, no, most probably monologue, the fairy didn't answer.

Instead, from the sphere of light cladding her body numerous balls of light are dispatched.

「Uwa!?!」

They become saturated white light and shine the insides of dark forest where the sunlight cannot reach.

Without being able to bear the light Zach closes his eyes, ears to for covering the sounds of explosions occurring around him.

To add up he crouches down being scared of the intense shockwaves and heat waves coming at him time by time.

「Hi, Hiii—! What is it, what the fuck is it! Just what the fucking hell happened this time!?!」

Inside the flood of light and sound, Zach, a human without anything else than high physical power, can only do that.

「I, Is it over.....?」

How much time had passed since the carpet bombing is over.

Zach finally understood that the threat has passed, for confirming he raises up his head,

「Ha, Haha.....I'm saved.....」

Only to find the jelly-like bodies of slime coating the plants and trees.

Inside it, some broken red stone like things are shining with dull light.

The slime army that seemed to like bury everything that came in it's way, now has turned into corpses army.

「Hahaha.....I'm saved, I'm fuckin' saved!」

That day, Zach for the first gave his heartfelt gratitude to the Black Gods.

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A small girl in black dress is loitering here and there in the dark forest while gathering up something.

If she was picking up flowers in a meadow, even the hoodlum Zach would loosen his cheeks seeing the lovely figure, but the girl was picking up the cores of the now-split apart slimes.

「Just what.....am I doing.....」

With an unknown development, Zach started helping the shining fairy in collecting the cores.

He isn't reluctant to say gratitude to his saviour, but without even talking or even introducing each other, doing something this only fills his heart with anxiety.

But once he started, he didn't stop.

Like that, after most of cores are collected, he gave the bag filled with dull red cores to the fairy.

「Oji-san, Thank you—」

Zach didn't feel anything bad seeing the sunflower like bright smile on the fairy's face.

「No, that, you even saved me there, so thank you」

How time would have passed since he has gave his gratitude from his heart.

「Hm—?」

However, the fairy took the words of gratitude and made a face as though she had no idea what he was talking about.

Zach didn't expect a child like looking fairy to reply to his gratitude, so he didn't worry about it.

「Oji-san, Bye bye」

Then, the fairy opened up the dimension magic as if natural, loaded the two full bags of core, and left while waving her hand.

To be more precise, towards the deepest part of Great Forest of Latifundia, the place declared as a dungeon.

Being dumbfounded, Zach thought the series of events that just happened are all an hallucination.

But, the genocide of slimes spread in surroundings extremely proves that everything is truth.

「Fairies are, awesome, right.....」

He didn't really understand it properly but anyway it's awesome, Zach understood the wideness of the world on this day.

Chapter 175 – Ifrit Appears!?

The sophomore, Eddie, of the Knight course in Royal Spada Academy was strolling in the southern part of Galahad Mountains with his classmates/party members.

「——After that, Erina-san said this to me」

「What did she say?」

「That she would wait for me until I am qualified to get quests from the Guild Headquarters!」

「Don't dramatize it! You were just being decently taken care of!」

「Nuuaaaa, don' speak tat!!」[ET: The guy spoke in an informal tone]

The party of 4 students were chatting idly as though they were hiking, but during this time last year, they didn't had any composure to even speak a word due to exhaustion by marching in Galahad Mountains.

They were still Rank 1, as an adventurer, no as a knight protecting Spada, but their strength had steadily increased.

「But, after clearing this quest we all will be able to move up to rank 2 finally」

「It's truth we would move one step closer to our admired Miss Erina」

That's right! The members looked at Eddie replying in high tension with lukewarm eyes.

The beautiful Elf receptionist, Erina, who had joined the Guild branch of Academy district, was a famous celebrity known by every students in Knight course who used the guild's facilities.

No, it would be more suitable to say her an idol, she was the one single flower that had bloomed in the guild where only ruffian-like adventurers gathered and talked about bloodthirsty things.

That ever-loved-beautiful Elf girl, kindly and politely smiled and interacted with every person, even the people who were students, with this much there was no

way she wouldn't get popular.

That's why, even his friends didn't think that their idiot-high-spirited friends, Eddie, would be able to pass through the multiple rivals and shoot down Miss Erina's heart.

「I will do it, before graduating, I will definitely become a man worthy of getting quests at the Guild Headquarters」

But, if he was going to improve his abilities by burning his young passion, it can be a good thing in itself.

Even if the words 'First Love never bears fruit' becomes a truth with an unchangeable reality with chances of being 100% correct.

「In fact, don't let down your guard Eddie, even if they are dagger raptors, this time there seems to be a quite a big crowd of them」

The staff officer of the Party, a male magician student, warns to his somewhat unreliable leader, Eddie.

「Now that you say it, they sure are increasing recently」

「Be careful so that you don't unintentionally jump in their nest」

Monster's strength information is something that should always be confirmed at the time of taking a quest.

The monsters have been identified based on the area of habitation, but the breeding conditions and turf wars are constantly changing, moment-by-moment.

The information of knowing beforehand about the easy encounter with monsters helps a great deal in preparing, for a typical example, if poison insects monsters are released in large numbers then they would prepare a lot of antidote beforehand.

Hence, the current quest of subjugating 5 dagger raptors has the most danger, in this situation with their breeding expansion, no doubt it would've become large herd, and would be difficult to complete the quest if they attacked at once.

They themselves and others know that they have the ability to already become Rank 2, but still they shouldn't let down their guards.

「——Oi」

At that moment, another knight member walking in the front along with Eddie stopped in his tracks.

Sensing the serious atmosphere coming from him, the other three suddenly take the battle stance.

「What happened?」

「Isn't it smelling awfully burnt?」

Really? He tried to reply back, but a sudden gust of wind from the behind trees came and carried the unique smell of fire burns.

「Was there a battle nearby?」

「There is no sound coming means, it's over right?」

In the surrounding with only dark green forest, the sounds of tree leaves rustling, insects crying and birds chirping can only be heard.

「It won't become a forest fire, right?」

「No, in that case the smoke should have been present, there should be traces left of someone fighting」

That too, would be without a doubt a magician who uses fire, a guess they all had.

「There doesn't seem to be any abnormality, let's move」

On the leader's decision, the members assented and moved into the dark green forest with even more vigilance than before.

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In the end, there was an 'abnormality'.

「W, What is this.....」

After walking a bit, along with the smell of vegetations burnt, an offensive smell of something living thing burnt also came.

Due to the thick scent, they moved forward to see the situation,

「Awessomeeeee.....Raptors nest is completely roasted」

Spread across a wide range, the cruel scene of many sets of parent and child in the raptor's nest were all burnt to death.

Originally, they too had come to take the lives of Raptors, so they didn't had any resistance in killing after all this time.

But, being exposed to this overwhelming fire power, with no existence of anyone living other than the ground, this scene with earth being scorched could make them feel merciless cruelty.

Seeing more clearly, the traces of dented earth explains that many powerful fire offensive magics were used and they fell like a storm in the nest of Raptors.

「Just how much of a great magician can burn everything to cleanliness to this extent?」

「Fuck that, is this the work of an adventurer?」

The destruction and sweltering heat is as though Ifrit itself has appeared.

It's more easier to convince the mind, saying a powerful monster did this.

That is because, if it was an adventurer, they could've used more smart way to finish the battle, at the very least they shouldn't have used the AOE attack that would even burn the vegetation.

「No, but this is without a doubt the work of adventurer」

How can you tell? The magician asks Eddie, he points to the black burnt corpse of Raptor and explained.

「The claws on the right are clipped of, the proof of subjugation」

They look everywhere in the surrounding while being surprised, without any discrimination, the right claws didn't exist on any of the raptor.

「Seriously, this is just too much」

「They have done this much, no doubt it's a rank 4 adventurer」

「But, would a rank 4 adventurer aim at the nest of Dagger Raptors?」

「It can be they used an AOE attack on a whim, there are people there who no one can understand」

They calmed down on their reasoning that a high-ranked adventurer launched a powerful fire magic on whim.

The occupation of adventurer is different from that of knight, and there would be more than 50,000 of them who would have broken ethical values. So, it's not that of a rare situation.

Then, thinking they saw something unusual, they left that place.

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That day, student party led by Eddie, couldn't meet any Dagger Raptor.

It wasn't them who had bad luck,

「What the fuck.....aren't the dagger raptors all exterminated?」

Because the 5 nests of Dagger Raptors they found after walking the mountain the whole day were cleanly roasted.

No, the raptors weren't the only ones who met the harsh reality of being burnt. The rank 1 monsters with wolf bodies, the Vindol were also in the same shape.

The rank 1 monsters, Dagger Raptors and Vindol, ruled the area, had their nests attacked and their numbers decreased.

Most probably the monsters who escaped the danger, ran towards the other areas while trembling in fear, they wouldn't have time to attack other adventurers coming their way.

Thanks to that, today ended up meeting with minority of low ranked 2 times.

「Who is it that said that it was on a whim?」

「No, normally who would think that such strong magician would go after a rank 1 monsters, would someone?」

With having a scene they had gotten familiar with, in front of the fifth nest of raptors they started quarreling.

「What should we do, at this rate we can't complete the quest」

「Certainly, we wouldn't find them so easily」

「What if, crushing the hopes of beginners is becoming a fad in the guild?」

If a high-ranked adventurer became serious, the low-ranked quests would be finished easily.

Though the Guild keep out the quest for Raptor subjugation 24×7, but if there is no subjugation target what can be done?

If the extinction of monster in the area was confirmed, the quest would without a doubt, be cancelled.

Though, within half a year or so, the same monster or another new kind of monster would arrive from some other area, in the end the quest for subjugation would once again be put out.

But, there's a problem if it occurred now, quests have something called as time limit.

「Calm down, tomorrow let's move somewhere different, we would certainly get at least 5 Dagger Raptors」

「But, if this Ifrit Bastard moved in the direction we head to——」

「Stop it, don't speak anymore than that」

Eddie stops the ominous comment of the other member.

「Anyhow, let's call it day for now」

Along with the voice of affirmation, the group showed signs of fatigue though they hadn't fought, and decided to leave the place.

While praying, 'Please don't make us fail the quest!'

Chapter 176 – Nightmare Berserker

「We are the, son of『Sword King』Leonhart Tristan Spada, the great man owning the, the white holy sword, forbidden black magic, and, the epitome of darkness, the reincarnation of demon king, that's right, We are Wilhart Tristan Spa—」(SK: Wilhart uses 'Waga' for 'I' which is more 'royal')

A rusted iron sword in goblin's hand is swung towards the slim male student, wearing a red mantle proving him to be a leader cadet in the Royal Spada Academy and is naming himself in loud voice.

「Daaaaaaaaa!?!」

Stopping naming himself in the middle, he does a forward somersault with all his power to evade the sword, that boy is the leader cadet shouldering the future of Spada, Wilhart.

Due to the somersault his monocle was about to fall, in a quite haste, he fixed it and stood back up to only howl at the goblin while pointing at it.

「You son of a bitch! To actually attack without hesitation while someone is naming themselves, you really are a rude savage!」

「It's not a savage but a monster, you're a big idiot to expect it to show manners」

From behind Wilhart's back, a refreshing beautiful voice came.

It's owner is, a maid wearing a pure white apron with no signs of dirt at all within this thick forest.

Pale green colored hair braid in a ponytail, the light blue eyes and face with adult beauty, would be like an elder sister if compared to Wilhart.

Otherwise, that manner of speaking which doesn't mince matters even against her master, shows the good relationship of that of siblings.

「Very well, in that case to this savage knight, We——」

「It's just a normal goblin」

「We will tell you the etiquettes of how nobles fight! By this great man owning the white holy sword, forbidden black magic, and, the epitome of darkness, the reincarnation of demon king, Wilhart Tristan Spadaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!?!」

Once again the powerful slash of the goblin assaulted Wilhart who is howling at it while pointing his finger.

And, once again he did a front somersault with full strength to evade the attack.

While spoiling the costume of a leader cadet which is a symbol representing Spada's glory, he stands up in an unrefined manner.

「You attack us not once but twice using fowl techniques.....We won't forgive you, definitely not!」

As though to win against Wilhart in howling, goblins too bellows while spitting saliva.

「We would let you become the rust for our White Holy Sword! Here we go, you barbarian knight!!」

「Wil-sama work hard. Also, that's a goblin」

Wilhart takes out the rapier made of mithril from the scabbard hanging on his waist, though in a very textbook style, he took a clumsy stance and faced the rogue goblin.

Wilhart has already entered the world of fighting man against and man, he can't possibly hear the words of the boorish maid anymore.

「Haaaaaa, in response to our request, reveal your true form, 『Holy Sword Vaiceschveato』!」

「It's only a normal『Mithril Rapier』」

「And take this! The secret martial skill passed down in the royal family of Spada since time immemorial, 『Heinrich Untergang』」

「It's only a『Slash』」

Voice of boorish maid, can't be heard! while praying wholeheartedly, Wilhart assaults the goblin in front of him with a normal『Mithril Rapier』, while

using『Slash』which he had learnt many times in the classes of the Academy.

Though it did reveal the might of martial skill, the straightforward swordsmanship was just too easy to understand and couldn't surpass Goblins reflexes.

With high agility like that of a monkey, goblin evaded the slash attack with a side step, in that posture assaults Wilhart.

「It evadedddd! Nuooooo!!」

From that moment onwards, without any martial skills or sword techniques, it changed into a competition of mudslinging.

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「Fuu, it was quite good, you nameless barbarian」

Like that, Wilhart gives the words of departing of Goblin who is now lying on the ground without moving even a bit.

His red hair inherited from his father, is disheveled due to evading here and there by somersaulting and rolling, right now a single green leaf is sticking to them.

It can be seen at a glance, the black blazer type uniform and bright red mantle are slightly dirty from the sap of weeds and mud, it has some traces left of the fierce fight against goblin.

Wilhart looked down upon the loser by making his golden eyes shine, though he himself won narrowly.

「For you have to this much hard time against just one goblin, as expected of Wil-sama」

While revealing a brutal light in her pale light blue eyes, the maid gives her blessing to her master, Wilhart.

「That's right praise us Seria, We haven't released even half of our true power! Fuhahahahaha!!」

Hitting both hands on waist, Wilhart raises a loud laughter, his whole body is without a doubt slightly dirty and shows that he won by a narrow chance.

But, aside from his father's wild looking appearance, this intelligent looking face, white skin as though he were a shut-in student, his thin body which can somehow gather power to take stance with sword, everything only looks like that of a bookworm student, so Wilhart should be praised that he even defeated a single goblin with sword.

Long story short, it means that he worked really hard.

「Well then, let's search for the rest of 4 goblins」

Seria, the maid in an indifferent tone, tells the progress of 5 goblin subjugation quest and urges her master to make haste.

「Fumu, this was just the weakest of all The Great 4 Barbarians, the other ones waiting are the true deadly weapon knights with true power」

「The Great Four, in that case, wouldn't one be left out?」

「Fu, that on left in the end is the『Sword King』that controls The Great 4 Barbarians, the abominable tyrannical ruler, Barbarian King!」

Hmm, while shaking her ponytail in the light breeze, Seria throws appropriate words at Wilhart with a mannequin-like expressionless face.

「Well then let's make haste, let it be the goblin quartet or their general, just kill the 4 of them fast.」

「Wrrrrroooong! It's The Great 4 Barbarian and Barbarian King!!」

「There is a nest near here, let's get near it and then search」

Seria turns over the long skirt of apron dress and starts running on the mountain road, her movement is like that of pair of wings helping her.

「W-Wait! Don't leave your Master who has completed a Soul Contract with you!!」

Before he lost sight of her, Wilhart, in a panic, started chasing behind the maid who has run before him.

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「It's strange, we should be very near the nest, but I don't feel the presence of Goblin at all」

Seria, who stopped abruptly, says those words with a nonchalant face.

「Pant.....Pant.....I, Is that true? Certainly, We too.....cannot feel.....the evil waves, the.....speciality of..... The Great 4s」

Leaning on a tree, Wilhart replies a completely nonsense crap while gasping, apparently, he doesn't know that it's good to breath without talking.

「Either the nest is extinct or has moved otherwise is in the middle of fighting——let's go and check it」

「Eh, Ah, Already.....」

He urges to let him rest for a little more while with eyes of pitiful puppy, but the maid with no hint of understanding her master's urges, starts running the mountain road once again.

「V, Very well.....in that case the time for us to remove the seal of Soma and revive has come.....Fu, Kukuku.....」

Like that, he drinks the potion for recovery (500 klan) taken out from pouch, and chases after Seria so that he doesn't lose sight of her.

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I'm a man like the example of bean sprouts , Wilhart carries that in actual real life practice, gathering willpower somehow, he chases after the apron dress with the contrast of white and blue.

Seria has stopped for hiding in the bushes, but he is doubtful as to why she has stopped here.

There is no way she would stop for him, she is the maid who doesn't give a fuck about her master, or so Wilhart is thinking.

「*Pant*.....*Heavy Pant* What happened, stopping here,did something——」

Seria turns back in a second, and shuts Wilhart's mouth with the dress glove she is wearing on her hands.

「Nnnh!? Nn, NNMU~!! (Y-You! Don't tell us that plan to betray us)」

「Keep quiet, and look at that」

Upon being urged by Seria, Wilhart rides her urge and looks on the other side of bushes.

Apparently there is a cliff on the other side of bushes, so he was able to get an unbroken view of the whole meadow spread below the cliff.

And, he realized that place is one of the nests of Goblin, out of numerous nests of Goblins present in the northern part of Galahad Mountains.

It would be obvious to anyone, because there are many storage shed like buildings and goblins near it.

「O, Oi! There is someone there!?!」

Wilhart suddenly noticed, there is a lone man present inside that nest.

No, there is no way he won't notice, after all that man is basking in the hostile glares of numerous goblins surrounding him.

「Why is an apprentice magician in a place like that alone!?!」

Wilhart releases that line unintentionally, Seria too knows there is no time for composure left.

Aside from that, the thing more worrying it why an apprentice magician jumped into the nest of goblins.

The black robe with simple design worn by the man is a normal cloth that can be found anywhere, but Wilhart, who goes to Royal Spada Academy, knows that the robe is the robe apprentice magicians of Academy are obligated to wear.

In fact, he himself is wearing so he can't be wrong.

「Not good, we have to save him before it get's too late!」

「I can't think of anything happening if Wil-sama jumps in the nest against that

many goblins」

「You thought of throwing me alone in there!?!」

Wilhart completely lost his haughty first person 'We', and urges Seria for saving the man who he hasn't seen before, but might be going to the same Academy.

「Please, Seria save him!」

And above all, the man is a citizen of Spada.

As the son of King Leonhart, as a person of royal family, he can't possibly let a citizen die in front of him.

At the very least, Wilhart does think like that wholeheartedly.

「I can't be useful in a fight, but you can fight against 100 or 200 goblins, right, that's why please, I will pay extra pay to you after this」

Seria heaves a small sigh, seeing him requesting from someone of lower class than him, and muttered.

「Good Grief, at times like this only Wil-sama acts like a cool person——」

Please! To Wilhart who is joining his hands and without hesitation lowering his head, the mutterings of Seria can't be heard.

「Understood, let's save him」

「Whoa, Really!」

「But,——」

Seria points to the meadow below, and declares with confidence.

「——I don't think he will need any help」

「Ha?」

Wilhart widened his eyes in surprise, but the next moment he understood the meaning of Seria's words.

「——Wha!?!」

In the hand of apprentice magician, at some point was a single sword.

He is a magician, so why is he equipped with something like sword?

No, looking at that the ‘abnormality’ of that sword, a doubt like this would never come up.

That’s because, the hatchet clenched in the hands of man, is having a large a wide blade portion, and is clad in an ominous and dark brown aura.

「Is that, a cursed weapon!？」

「Yeah, based on the looks, it is.」

Even a beginner would only think it to be cursed weapon after seeing the fiendish aura covering it.

But, the man holding the cursed hatchet, is only standing silently without showing hints of madness or actions of those who are possessed by the curse.

The stance is different from what is told in Spada, but even Wilhart, who got saved in the sword classes by barely passing from failure understood, that the stance is of a person who is master is swordsmanship.

「Don’t tell me.....he can use the cursed weapons」

The muttering can’t be heard by the apprentice magician in far distance, but, as to reply to his question the man moved.

The man, assaulted the goblins carrying the hatchet against the crowd of goblins coming at him from all four sides——.

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Heaps of corpses, the scene that can’t be explained anything else was spread below.

There are corpses of goblins spread everywhere, spurting out the entrails and blood in a flashy manner, not even one is a complete body with every part present.

And, the figure of man who created this hell with just one hatchet, was no more in that place.

「As expected, there was no need to save him」

Yeah, while replying that, Wilhart recalled the scenes of battles that was ongoing before.

The single man, with just one hatchet, cut down the flood of goblins coming from all directions.

With just one swing of hatchet, the torso, hands legs, and head are dissected.

On the contrary, the blades of more than dozens of goblins, never reached the body of the man.

This was no more fighting, but one-sided slaughter, similar to atrocity.

The man without showing signs of being mad, just indifferently, like he was given orders to repeat something simple, kept on cutting the goblins with a cold expression showing no emotions as though he were a servant of someone.

He wasn't angry either, but that man

「It's a berserker」

Seemed to fit that nickname.

「Ku, Fufufu.....Fuahahahahahahaha! That's right, that guy is the Nightmare Berserker」

「Sigh, is that so?」

「That's right!」

The man got himself a name out of his permission, but the man has already left the place, and he never noticed the presence of these two either, so there was no room for complaints.

「The time goes back to 10 years ago, a tragedy occurred that pushed down the kind-hearted apprentice magician into madness for revenge, yes, it was later called as Red Night in Spada, the ghastly——」

「I think it's rude to fabricate someone's past」

And, the incident of『Red Night of Spada』doesn't exist, at the very least, Seria hasn't heard of it.

「He's Awesome, He's Cool, that Nightmare Berserker!」

「Did you get high after seeing a stimulating fight.....」

Seria while sighing heavily that she can't handle him anymore, had to listen to the legendary stories of the Nightmare Berserker from Wilhart.

Chapter 177 – Rank 2

「Yes, certainly all the quests' completion are now confirmed.」

The young receptionist, Erina, somehow stalled the surprise in her heart and said in a businesslike manner.

It wasn't that she was being embarrassed like a lovestruck maiden in front of this adventurer named Kurono who can get 90 points alone with his face, but she was simply surprised by the fact that all the quests have been cleared.

(Eh, What, just how did he clear all his quests? And not even one week has passed since then, no, more than that, what the hell is with this massive amount of number of subjugated monsters!?)

The massive amount of parts of subjugated monster was something Erina hadn't seen even once since employment.

(124 Dagger Raptors, 87 goblins, 52 Vindol.....*sigh* the 5 Punpun seems the abnormality here.....but the most abnormal is 376 slimes)

Rank 1 monsters are weak, to cover up that there are lot of them.

Killing 100 or 200 won't make them extinct, but giving these three-digit numbers is something not possible for a rank 1 adventurer.

This 376 slimes are not something rare, since they outbreak in large numbers sometimes, but even meeting a group of 100+ slimes, rank 3 adventurer too would choose evasion.

For getting these many numbers of monsters within less than a week, only means directly confronting the group or the nest.

Although there are sometimes, reckless rank 1 adventurers who try to challenge the nests, but most are killed, and if they survived, they would retire from being adventurer.

But, Kurono still looks cool like he did some days before when he came, he isn't looking scared or traumatised at all.

No, in reality he has presented this many proofs of subjugation,

(Is this person.....by chance, really strong?)

So it's natural to think that Kurono is hiding power not that of rank 1 adventurer.

(No, wait, calm down me, people with power not matching their ranks are not so easy find)

There is also the system of starting being adventurer from rank 3 if the person has enough power as that of soldier when registering as an adventurer.

Due to that, it's extremely rare to find people having power above rank 1.

But extremely rare, doesn't mean they don't exist.

One famous exception would be, the eldest son of『Sword King』Leonhart, in other words the first prince, Eisenhart Tristan Spada, reached rank 5 from rank 1 while still being in Royal Spada Academy.

Other would be, the secret disciples of master magicians or martial artists who live and train in mountains, come out in world and increase the rank at terrifying speed.

However, even the prince and disciples are all who have learnt stronger martial skills or attack magic while being rank 1, and adventurer's starting line.

And, people like them can be differentiated on the equipment they wear, at the very much least, they wouldn't appear wearing white shirt and worn-out leather pants.

Right now Kurono is wearing a apprentice magician robe too, but it too is of the lowest grade equipment.

It's rash to think of him as those rare people with more power.

(This is.....right, the party members are strong, that's right!)

Erina wavered.

Thinking on it, the completion of quest by acting as parasite and relying on party members is the most easily acceptable thing.

Occasionally, the idiotic noble spoiled children who are fascinated by the epic tales of adventurers, take party members as bodyguards and do their

‘adventurer play’.

People like this appear more easily than the disciples of masters, or rather, they are the only ones who are in existence in the current age.

(*sigh*, Unfortunate, truly unfortunate, if Kurono-san were a mysterious man who lied about his power, I would’ve given you 90 points)

While she is indulging in her thinkings,

「Excuse me, we can become rank 2 with this, right?」

「Yes, with this Kurono-sama and your party『Element Master』will be promoted to rank 2. Congratulations」

She would still be able to reply to the other person while still keeping on thinking, that’s her awesome part.

「I will need to update the guild card right now, so please wait a moment」

Like that, Erina operates the magic item for reading and writing on the guild card with one hand.

「Will you do the updation of other party members too right now?」

「Well, it can be done later, but it’s normal to get it updated at the same time. Would you be in the possession of members card too?」

Yes, while replying with a clear voice, two guild cards with iron lustre are handed to Erina.

(! Isn’t this just an iron plate!)

The expectations of gold guild card was toppled over in a second.

The updation said by Erina is the completion of quest, but seems like the updation understood by Kurono is the the promoting the other rank 1 members like him.

If he is a idiotic noble son, then no doubt a rank 3 adventurer would be his bodyguard.

Though personal bodyguard work is a different occupation from that of an adventurer, but for showing the proof of their strength, most keep the guild cards with them.

(If all members are rank 1, that means there is no bodyguard hired—wait, in the first place, if he were a noble son, wouldn't his equipment be better than this, this one is just crap!)

In the end, Erina reconsidered the adventurer named as Kurono to be just some low-ragged adventurer at any place.

And, at the time of reading the guild cards of his party members, that thinking only deepens.

(Lilly, Rank 1.....Fiona Soleil, Rank 1.....both have registered in the same Irz Village at almost same times)

Only the guess that a group of young country bumpkins came to Spada while admiring adventurers can come to my mind while seeing this information.

(No, but the structure of this party is completely strange, 2 magicians and Lily, the fairy, huh, isn't that just a race name instead of class!)

For example, humans don't write their class to be human, class explains the fighting style of person frankly, in worst, it explains the type of weapon the person uses.

But, Kurono is not worried in the least that this race name is written as the class.

(Anyways, it's true that this Kurono and his party are not any normal rank 1 people!)

The moment she thought that, the evaluation towards Kurono,

(Currently, it's impossible to give him a correct score.)

Is amended.

At the same she thought that this man, Kurono, is a bottomless person, he started looking charming to her.

(This is one great rookie with great future, Ufufu, I've got to check his developments from now on)

Like that, Kurono and『Element Master』, the rank 1,

「Yes, the updation is over」

no, them who just got promoted to rank 2, are given the bronze plated guild card by Erina with her eyes filled with expectations.

「Congratulations, I wish good luck to you」

It's the standard line to be said on increasing rank, but this is the first time Erina has inserted her true feelings in it.

「Thank you very much」

Like that, Kurono takes the bronze plated guild card while showing a smile, which somehow gives sense of relief, on his mostly expressionless face.

(Aren't that was a bit cool, ugh.....)

Erina felt her heart beating faster which she hasn't felt in a long time, but Kurono spoke in a voice that showed he noticed nothing.

「Excuse me, can I ask something?」

「Yes, what might it be?」

Though Erina said that, she has already guessed what he would ask.

「Can you tell me the quests necessary for rising to rank 3?」

Bingo, In the brain of Erina, the rank 2 monster list is already open.

「Yes, here they would be」

She took out the bundle of all rank 2 quests, takes out the quests fulfilling the requirements for rank promotion, and presents them to Kurono.

「Then——」

「Ufufu, would you take them all?」

On those half-jokingly words, Kurono with a somewhat surprised expression,

「Yes, please do」

Strongly nodded.

(Well then, if he easily gets promoted to rank 3 too, then he is.....the real deal)

Erina started the processing of paperwork for taking quests, while her heart beats faster with expectations.

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(POV: Kurono)

This branch Guild is completely different from the ones I had been using.

In the first place the sizes are different, the Alsace one was 4-storey including the inn space, here the business space alone is 5-storey.

The number of storey are same, but there is comparable difference in the height between floor area and the ceiling, now that's what you will find overwhelming.

Even after taking this fact, there is a clear difference in the atmosphere between the two.

If you take a guild of village to be bar, this one more like a government office with hard atmosphere drifting around it.

There is no space to eat meal in the lobby, only a wide white painted space is spread out, even the adventurers are somewhat looking like salarymen.

No, it must be because there are more people wearing blazer-like clothes, that's why I'm thinking like that.

I, who has always been using the small guilds in remote countryside, this noisy place in other sense, with only businesslike words spoken, only office work is done, gives me sense of discomfort.

I wonder if I will get used to this feeling by the time I reach rank 3, oh hell with my over-positive thinking.

First of all, I need to think about reaching rank 3 as soon as possible.

「So then, Kurono-san was tempted by that beautiful receptionist, and once again you have taken lot of quests, right?」

「O-Oi, don't make me sound like a bad person」

I reply while getting a somewhat cold stare from Fiona.

「Mu-!」

For some reason it feels like Lily too is also staring at me with dissatisfied look, it's certainly my imagination, after all the small Lily is a reasonable and good child who listens to me.

「It won't hurt to increase rank fast, right, even if it's rank 2, it won't take much time to clear it too. We don't need to subjugate 100 or 200 of monsters this time either.」

「Isn't Kurono-san the same who killed 100?」

「No, I am was good and I killed only 87」

It's still the same! I got a retort from Fiona, quite rare.

No, at first I had thought to return back after killing 5, but it felt like the hatchet will evolve, so I worked hard and let it drink lots of blood.

And oh great, I challenged the whole nest of goblin without Sword Arts or Bullet Arts, but just a single hatchet, as though I was a swordsman.

In the end, it still didn't evolve though.

「So, how many quests are there?」

「11 in total」

Different from last time the time limits this time are all different, if we completed them in order, it would be over in around a month or so.

I only took the quests with low time durations, like kicking out the escort quests.

Entering dungeons, it all ends up on one's strength, if we stay in there for some days, it's easy to get 10 or 20 monsters.

「I see, certainly with that it might work somehow」

While turn pages of quest documents, Fiona too consents.

「It's good that you weren't simply deceived by the charm of the receptionist」

「Why are you feeling relieved?」

Can't you try to not speak those lines in front of a child, Fiona-san. Thanks to

that, it feels like Lily's stare is hurting me.

「Well, to congratulate for our promotion to rank 2, shall we go and drink?」

I hand over the 2 new guild cards to both of them.

「O-」

「Wa-!」

The two take the guild card with considerably happy expressions.

Yeah, it certainly is deeply moving.

「In other words, it means today is Spada Gourmet Tour Round 2, right?」

「Ah, Argh.....Yeah, it's alright to think it like that」

It's not like I'm treating her, it will be fine, right? Right? [ET: It's not double typing of words]

「Thanks to you both working so much that monsters almost went extinct—— look at this!」

SFX: Don!

I put down the bag filled with 10K klan gold coins.

Whoa~~, Lily and Fiona congratulate while clapping both their hands.

「Eat and drink as much as you want, it would fine to split the amount after eating, right?」

The sharing of rewards, the equal splitting, standard rule of adventurers, is also being used in our『Element Master』.

「But, is it alright, without having Kurono-san's equipment bought?」

「No, it's fine to do that after reaching rank 3. The reward this time, is enough to make a living, but not even enough to let me buy the equipments I want」

The cursed weapon, even one is 100,000 klan, all this reward will only become some small change.

My share of rewards is one-third, so I will have to keep on completing the quests until I reach rank 3, or else I won't earn the money to buy it.

「It's fine like that, but if it's a little less, Lily-san and I can support as well.」

「Thanks, but it's good that you feel that way」

Financial relationships should be kept clean to the extreme extent, I am of having an equal relationship with these two.

I'm still only 17 years old, I don't have much life-experience that I can solve problems while bearing a strange anxiety factor, it's good to be always careful!

「It's more desirable that Kurono-san buys right equipment and increases the power, neither I nor Lily-san have any attachments to money. So, you don't have to be so stubborn, right?」

Fiona and Lily urge me,

「Yeah, Lily will buy a weapon for Kurono!」

And on those pure and clean words my heart aches.

What is this.....why do i feel like a bad guy who's deceiving them into supporting me financially?.....

「T-Thanks.....but if I take money, I will definitely return them with interest added with interest-rates in gray-zone」

「Gray-zone? Well that's right, Kurono does seem like you will be able to accept it easily if it's in the form of loan」

「Lily will buy one for you~!」

Please stop recklessly supporting me, I mean seriously, it makes me anxious.

「A-Anyways, let's forget the work relationship for now and celebrate, right?」

「Let's explore a new shop today」

This was quite a forced way to change topics but, I won.

「Alrighty, let's move. Ah, that's right, Lily, will you get in my hood after a long time?」

I completed the formation with Lily who jumped in the hood while smiling, and we left the guild in high-spirits. [ET: The formation is something like. *dark past emerges* Power Ranger Robots formation *dark past submerges* argh, forget it!]

Chapter 178 – Demon Hunting

In the bushes, a single child had been lying collapsed.

Since the child was lying face-down, his appearance was not visible but the hair colour was light brown and skin was white. From the arms, wings of the same colour as the hair were extending and from the back and below, bird legs with the same coloured plumage were present.

That is, it wasn't a human child but a Harpy child.

And on its back, 2 arrows were stabbed and maybe one of the arrows had hit the wings, feathers had been scattered all over the place as well.

"Wow~ as expected of the famous and brave Earl Bergunt! Brilliantly done!~"

"Hahaha this was nothing compared to firing a bow on the battlefield, Bishop-dono."

The two human men on horseback were chatting happily in front of the corpse of the harpy child.

One was a slim clergyman on a white horse and his pace looks exactly like those sly-foxes that appeared in fairy tales.

The white clothing with a design covering his whole body was, as said, for the personal use of only Bishop ranked people.

The other person was a tall and lean young man riding a grey horse.

His hair and eyes were dark green, the same colour that represented the primary magic of wind and his well-trained lean body was covered from tip to toe in silver ornamented light armour.

By their attire, it could be easily told that both of them were men of high standing and status.

"Thank you very much, Bishop-dono, for inviting me today to this event. I haven't had the chance to draw my bow even once after coming to Pandora so I was worried that my skills would start rusting away like this."

The man who laughed in a loud voice, Earl Bergunt, led one section of those reinforcements who came to Pandora seeking land and riches after the battle at Goldran.

Among the reinforcements, most of them belonged to the army dispatched by Cardinal Mercedes but as his title suggests, this Earl Bergunt was a noble of Syncrea Republic and belonged to a power different from the church.

“No no, you’re far too kind. In fact, I’m the one honoured as someone great as you decided to take part in this. It really put up a flower on this [Demon Hunting] ——“

The man delivering the smooth words of compliment and flattery was the right hand man of Cardinal Mercedes sent to Pandora, Bishop Gregorius.

Though they belonged to the same Crusaders, both of them were rivals who were fighting to gain rights over Pandora but the reason they are chatting so pleasantly like this is not because that they were old friends or something like that. They simply had a much better reason for this.

“Now then, this Harpy was the last one remaining. Time really flies when you’re enjoying, but it’s time for closure.”

“Yes, it’s truly unfortunate.....ah, but, whether coincidence or the will of our God, I was able to get closer to Earl Bergunt like this so, would you mind joining me for a friendly chat?”

Bergunt fleetingly glanced around his surroundings.

No matter how much paid attention, there was no presence of any other human, meaning, only the two of them were here right now.

Well it was only obvious. They were running on horses to chase after Harpy children who could fly away for some time.

Their play style was more of cornering them slowly instead of instantly killing them but it’ll take some time for either of their attendants to reach here.

That means, for the time being there was no one who could hear their conversation.

“Oh, I’ll be happy to! For me to get to personally hear directly from Bishop-

dono.”

“No no, it’s not something like a noble sermon. I specialise in more realistic, profitable talks.”

Hou, giving a small response, he urged Gregorius to continue.

“For example Earl Bergunt, you have been worried that you didn’t get a chance to use your bow till now, am I correct?”

“Truly said, we were a step late in coming to Pandora after all.”

Because of your damn Mercedes faction! But he didn’t go so far and say that.

After hearing the victory of the Crusaders at Goldran, both the church under Mercedes and the forces under Bergunt prepared to leave for Pandora almost at the same time.

But what led to the gap between them was how quickly they could obtain a ship to get to Pandora.

Mercedes was able to gain control over the ships meant for army use faster than anyone else and was able to get his own army to Pandora faster than anyone else.

And by the time the army led by Gregorius had landed on Pandora, finally then Bergunt and others’ turn came.

But, since they had been already late, by the time they reached Pandora, the territory of Daedalus was almost captured completely.

Thus, without any place to go, their armies were currently staying on standby with nothing to do.

“nfufu, what are you saying, almost 90% of Pandora is still under the control of demons, you know? The true occupation and invasion will start from here onwards. That was what you were thinking as well, which is why you are quickly preparing to charge into Spada, right?”

Bergunt who had been giving off a calm atmosphere till now suddenly gave off a dangerous atmosphere now.

It was intimidating pressure only someone who had gone through countless

battlefields could have gained.

“As expected of the [Prophet], that title isn’t just for show.”

Why was something that they had been secretly doing to avoid getting noticed by the Mercedes faction so easily found out?

One would be satisfied considering that Gregorius himself proclaimed himself as a [Prophet] without any embarrassment.

If he could actually do something like [Predictions], no matter how much secretive you are, he could guess things right without any proof or basis.

Then, if it really is something that troublesome——Bergunt could only think that way.

“Don’t make a scary face like that. Though we are affiliated to different organisations, we are currently working under the same name of the Crusaders. Also, even if not that, aren’t we the followers of the same White God?”

Spreading his arms, Gregorius preached of brotherhood but Bergunt’s suspicions didn’t disappear at all.

“Well, with the intention of give and take, we are thinking of handing over the chance of being the vanguard to attack Spada to you.”

Hearing those words, Bergunt’s vigilance slightly loosened.

“Is that what His Highness Cardinal Mercedes thinking or is that your personal decision, Bishop-dono?”

“Both, actually. We of the church are not thinking of doing something as greedy as putting direct control of the church over all of the territory of Pandora and leave nothing for the nobles. There are people who follow and worship the church which is why it exists. We do not want to create suspicion among the nobles who consist of a large population simply because of a petty thing like disputes over lands.”

Even while knowing the fierce fight over land happening behind the scenes, Bergunt felt like giving a wry smile to Gregorius who labelled it as a ‘petty thing’.

“Both His Excellency Cardinal and me are thinking of sharing the limited lands between us on good terms. We, of the church, obtained Daedalus this time.

Then, you people should get the next land of the same approx size next, right?”

“fuhahaha! The church is fine with giving away half of Pandora? What a modest way of thinking as expected of clergymen who serve God!”

Of course! Gregorius replied laughing as he didn't sense the sarcasm in Bergunt's words.

“But still, His Excellency Cardinal Mercedes possesses generous thoughts like sharing the lands but what about Cardinal Ars? We don't know how he thinks. After all, he's still young and he was the one who first led the invasion of Pandora after all. It won't be weird of him to hold other aspirations as well, right?”

Bergunt had also heard normally about what kind of person Cardinal Ars is, of course, 'normally' meant in terms of a noble so the information was much better.

It didn't end with just his magnificent record of how he released the lands from the heretics with the help of 7th Apostle Sariel and 12th Apostle Mariabelle, he also knew specific info about his skills and abilities and how he reached the position of a Cardinal so quickly as well.

“The lands of Pandora are simply obtained in the process of spreading and offering to our God, that is, Cardinal Mercedes doesn't mind even if those lands were further halved as well.”

Bergunt finally seems to be satisfied so once again he turned back to his gentle but yet somewhat daring smile.

“fumu, fumu, I see, if the church is ready to share the lands with us for such modest thoughts, it seems Cardinal Mercedes, who possesses benevolence truly equal to God, would be more suited as the next Pope surely.”

In the Cross Religion, the right to vote in deciding the next Pope in the [Conclave] didn't belong to just clergymen but to also the members of the parliament and the nobles as well.

For a cardinal with the rights to become a Pope obtaining favour of the nobles held what kind of meaning, even a slightly educated man could discern.

“And, above all, it’s important to become the biggest contributor to offering Pandora to the God as the oracle proclaimed. To obtain God’s trust holds much more significance than getting simply riches and land after all.”

“HaHaHa, it is as you say! Brilliant! To be able to say that without hesitation, I think I have seen a true clergyman in front of me.”

It’s great you understand. Gregorius coolly answered.

“For the time being, we shall give you the currently in construction, Alsace fort, for the purpose of capturing Spada.”

“Alsace.....fuhaha, it’s that interesting village where that ‘devil’ appeared eh?”

The battle and capture of Alsace had become famous enough that even Bergunt who was in Daedalus had heard of it.

After all, it had generated a huge amount of sacrifices which could be considered a stain in the records. It was obvious that it’ll become famous, after all, bad information flies even faster.

“I believe you already know but Spada is beyond the rugged Gallahad mountain ranges and the only highway connecting to it is from Alsace.”

“I had heard that for mere demons, they had maintained it quite well as well.”

“Yes, it’s a fact. We can’t doubt an Apostle’s words, can we?”

And, though not as big of a rumour but Bergunt had heard that it was 11th Apostle Misa, who had secretly come to Pandora, that had ended the battle.

“The problem is whether or not we can capture the Spada’s fortress in the Gallahad Mountains.”

“Though mere demons, there was also the case at Alsace, please do not be negligent against them, okay?”

“What, now that we are in a ‘cooperative relationship’, we can prepare without any anxiety and will focus on the enemy in front of us.”

Bergunt who answered that had a sharp light in his eyes like a bird who had found its prey.

“nfufufu, I’ll be counting on you then. Oh right, it’ll take some time till the

completion of Alsace fort. After all, we are working towards accepting newcomers in Daedalus as well so it's taking some time."

"I don't mind. In fact we won't mind taking over a temporary random place till then. Kukuku, leave everything to us. The glorious flag of our Cross will soon be seen at the royal castle of Spada!"